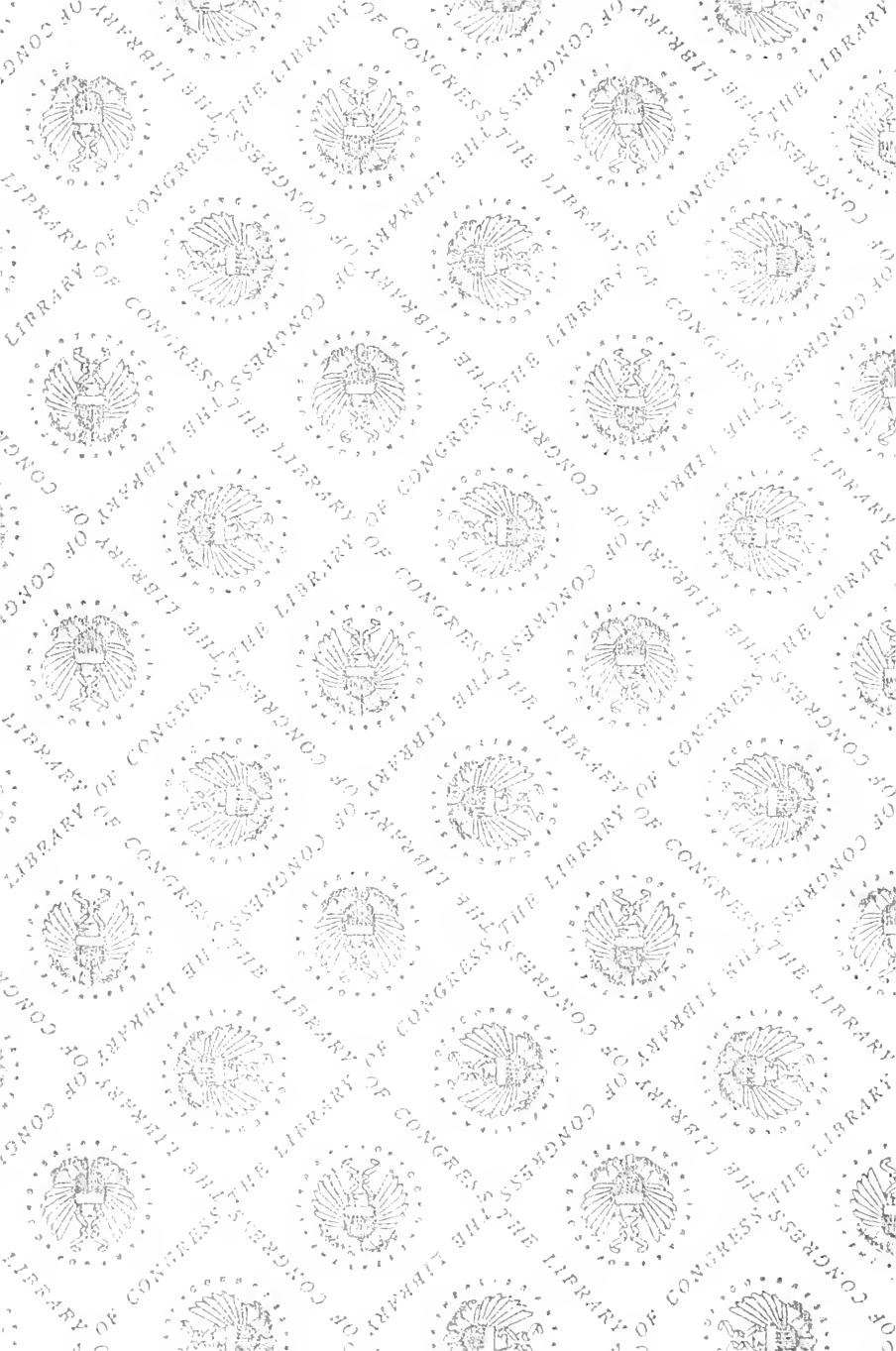


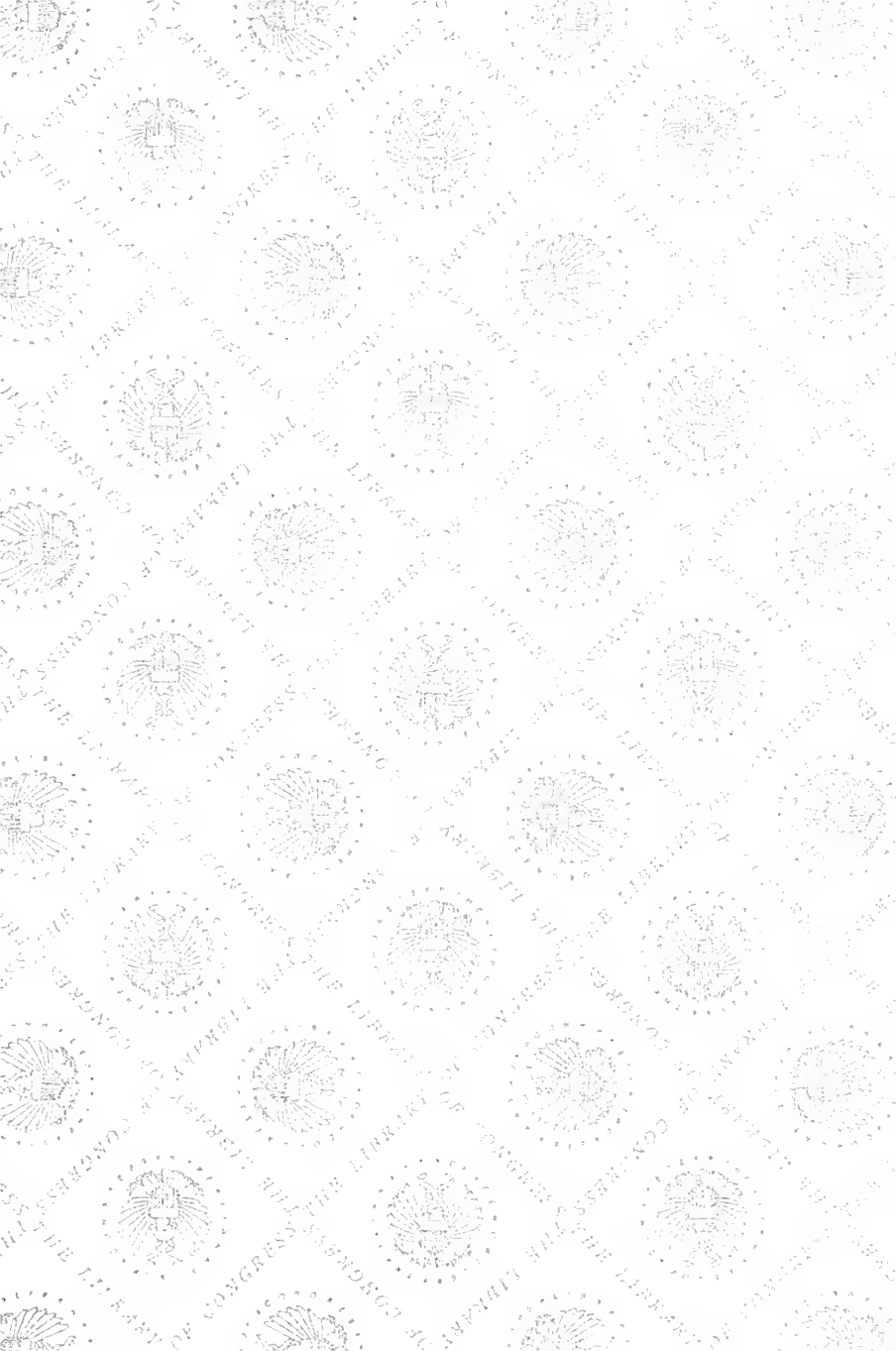
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RODNEY WEBSTER TORREY  
at the age of 68

# WAR DIARY

— OF —

RODNEY W. TORREY



1862 - 1863

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## Preface

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**A** DIARY as kept by Rodney W. Torrey, during his service in the Civil War, from October 31, 1862, to August 22, 1863. With a few minor changes, it is given exactly as it was first written. The weather observations were made in accordance with a life-long habit of the writer, and are given here because it was his wish to preserve them as a part of the original record.

At the close of the book will be found copies of letters written by him to members of his family. With the omission of a few personal matters, these, too, will be given exactly as written.



# WAR DIARY

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RODNEY WEBSTER TORREY, born in Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, September 30th, 1836, was a farmer and mechanic residing in Windsor at the time of enlistment. The story of his service will be told in his own words.

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OCTOBER 31, 1862. Rode to Camp Briggs in Pittsfield, and volunteered in Company K, Forty-ninth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (Byron Weston of Lee, and later of Dalton, Captain). In the afternoon went to Pittsfield village. Weather very fair, calm, clear and warmer, with southwest wind.

NOVEMBER 1. Stayed in camp last night. This morning got a furlough and went to Pittsfield, took cars to Hinsdale, then rode home with Sidney (my younger brother). Weather very fair, calm, clear and warmer, with southwest wind.

NOVEMBER 2. Attended church at West Cummington, Rev. Henry Matson, pastor. Weather very fair, calm and clear, with wind varying from northeast to southeast and southwest.

NOVEMBER 3. In the morning went to our mill and came home through the village (East Windsor). Remained at home during the day. Weather cold and cloudy, with wind blowing very hard from the west and northwest.

NOVEMBER 4. In the morning went to Town Meeting at Windsor, and from there to Camp Briggs in Pittsfield. Weather very fair, calm and a little warmer, with the wind northwest.

NOVEMBER 5. Went on guard, third relief, at noon today. This was my first time on guard. Weather cloudy, calm and a little cooler. Wind southwest.

NOVEMBER 6. Remained at Camp Briggs. Drilled about one hour. Weather cold, growing very cold, with rain and snow. Moderate northwest wind.

NOVEMBER 7. Started from Camp Briggs at eight o'clock, and from Pittsfield by train at nine forty-five. Arrived at Camp Wool, Worcester, Mass., at six P. M., after marching about one and one-half miles from the cars. Weather very cold; cloudy in morning, with snow in the afternoon. A hard wind blowing from the northeast.

NOVEMBER 8. Stayed at camp, rigged up, and wrote home. Our barracks are new, about eighty or ninety feet long and twenty feet wide, and furnished with stoves. There is a separate one for each company. Weather cloudy, misty and a little warmer. Wind northeast. Four inches of snow fell in the last storm.

NOVEMBER 9. Remained at camp. Did not drill wrote to Aunt Lianda. Weather stormy. Hard rain last night. Wind moderate, north and northwest. A little snow at night.

NOVEMBER 10. Roll call at half-past five o'clock in the morning. Company drill three times a day,—from six to seven A. M.; from ten to eleven-thirty A. M., and from two to four P. M. Weather fair, calm and cooler, with northwest wind. A few clouds in the afternoon.

NOVEMBER 11. Roll call at five-thirty A. M., then company drill from six to seven, and from ten to eleven-thirty. Roll call and dinner from two to four o'clock P. M., then company drill at half-past four. Supper at six o'clock; then, at nine o'clock, roll call. Weather very fair, calm and clear. Wind southwest. At night, some clouds and warmer.

NOVEMBER 12. Roll call at five-thirty, then company drill from six to seven and from ten to eleven. Was excused from drill in afternoon. Roll call at nine o'clock P. M. Weather very fair, calm, clear and warmer. Wind northwest.

NOVEMBER 13. Roll call at five-thirty A. M., then company drill from six to seven. Breakfast at seven-thirty o'clock, then company drill from ten to eleven-thirty. After dinner battalion drill from two to four P. M., with dress parade at four o'clock. Supper at six, and roll call at nine o'clock. Weather very fair, calm and clear; little warmer. Wind northwest and west.

NOVEMBER 14. Roll call and drill as usual in morning. Went to the doctor and was excused from drill on account of cold and headache. Weather very fair, calm, clear and warmer. Wind west.

NOVEMBER 15. Drilled as usual. The captain took his men to a cider mill where we had apples and cider. Went to the city between twelve and two o'clock P. M. Weather very fair, calm, clear and cooler. Wind northeast and northwest.

NOVEMBER 16. (Sunday). Remained in camp. Had dress parade at four o'clock P. M. Weather: morning, fair; afternoon, cloudy. Moderate northeast wind; very cold and chilly.

NOVEMBER 17. Drilled in morning but no more today on account of the rain. Rained very hard all day. Wind southwest, calm; west at night, warmer.

NOVEMBER 18. Drilled as usual. Morning fair with few clouds; afternoon cloudy. Wind northwest, northeast, southeast; calm.

NOVEMBER 19. Remained in camp. Drilled only in the morning. Weather stormy; rain. Wind southwest; calm; warmer.

NOVEMBER 20. On guard, second relief. On from eleven until two, and from five to seven o'clock. Sidney came today with Levi Ford, and went on to Boston. Weather cloudy and very hot. Wind southwest. Last night hard rain. Countersign is "Ashby."

NOVEMBER 21. Went to city on pass, then was on dress parade. Weather stormy, with hard rain, and little cooler. Wind southwest; calm.

NOVEMBER 22. On police. Packed knapsack. Sidney stayed with me last night. Went with him to the city. He started for home at four P. M. Weather stormy; rain. Wind northwest, southwest; calm.

NOVEMBER 23. (Sunday). Attended Presbyterian church in Worcester, in morning. About thirty from Company K and about two hundred from the regiment were in attendance. Afternoon, remained in camp. Went on dress parade. Weather fair, with snow squalls. Moderate northwest wind.

NOVEMBER 24. In morning drilled three hours, then marched to city. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Weather very fair; colder. Wind northwest; calm.

NOVEMBER 25. Morning drill. In morning escorted the Fifty-first Regiment to depot. About seven-hundred soldiers marched through the streets. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Weather very fair; few clouds; warmer. Wind southwest, calm.

NOVEMBER 26. Remained in camp. Did not drill. Drew our guns, bayonets, scabbards, cartridge boxes and cap boxes. Weather stormy, foggy, misty and warmer. Wind southwest; calm. Last night, rain.

NOVEMBER 27. In morning, drilled with guns. In afternoon, only dress parade. Weather very fair, calm, clear and little cooler. Wind northwest.

NOVEMBER 28. Started from Camp Wool at one-thirty o'clock P. M. by cars. Arrived at Norwich, Conn., sixty-seven miles away, at ten minutes past

five o'clock. Started by steamboat for New York, two hundred and twenty-five miles away, at seven o'clock P. M. Weather fair; few clouds; little warmer. Wind southwest; calm.

NOVEMBER 29. Arrived at New York at five o'clock A. M. Landed at seven o'clock, and marched to City Hall and Tribune Building where we stayed until eleven A. M. Then marched to Franklin Street barracks, which is a building five stories high. We eat in the basement. Weather cloudy; warmer; little rain in afternoon. Wind southwest, west; calm.

NOVEMBER 30. The captain took us out and marched through several streets to the Battery, where we remained all of afternoon. Weather very fair; calm.

DECEMBER 1. Remained in our quarters. Drilled with arms, some. Weather stormy; rained slowly all day. Wind calm.

DECEMBER 2. Sergeant J. L. White took us out and we broke ranks. Afternoon, the whole regiment marched around the city. Weather very fair, calm and clear; cooler.

DECEMBER 3. I am on guard. Did not stand on guard from nine o'clock until seven o'clock. Weather cloudy, with snow spits; colder.

DECEMBER 4. Went to Camp Banks, Union Course, L. I. Started about ten-thirty A. M. Marched about sixteen miles, arriving at the camp just before sunset. Weather very fair, with no clouds; calm, and a little warmer.



DECEMBER 5. Remained at camp. In the morning moved our tents; in afternoon fixed our things. Weather in morning, cloudy; afternoon, rain; evening, snow and a little warmer. Calm southwest wind.

DECEMBER 6. Remained at camp. Went and got some boards. The Fifty-third Massachusetts regiment cleaned out the quartermaster's and sutler's and tore down their buildings. Some of the Forty-ninth men helped them do it. Weather very fair, with snow squalls in morning. Hard northwest wind; colder.

DECEMBER 7. (Sunday). Remained in camp. Went and got some boards. Had dress parade. Weather very fair, clear and very cold. Hard northwest wind. It did not thaw even in the sun.

DECEMBER 8. Morning, washed my clothes. Afternoon, helped in cookhouse. Had chicken for dinner. Dress parade today. Weather very fair; few clouds, and a little warmer. Wind northwest, west, southwest; calm.

DECEMBER 9. Remained in camp. Was employed setting up officers' tents. At night went out on dress parade. Weather very fair; few clouds; warmer. Wind northeast; calm.

From the memoranda at the back of the diary comes the following:

### ORDER OF THE DAY

On and after December 9, 1862, the following will be the daily order of duty throughout this camp:—

Reveille . . . . .	6.30 a. m.
Sergeant report to Adjutant . . . . .	7.00 a. m.
Breakfast . . . . .	7.30 a. m.
Surgeon's call . . . . .	8.30 a. m.
Guard mounting . . . . .	9.00 a. m.
Officers' drills in manual . . . . .	9.30-10.30 a. m.
Non-commissioned officers' drill . . . . .	9.30-10.30 a. m.
Company drill . . . . .	10.30-12.00 m.
Dinner . . . . .	12.30 p. m.
Orderly Sergeant's call . . . . .	1.00 p.m.

(When the Sergeant will report to the Adjutant for the next day's detail.)

Company drill in manual . . . . .	2.00-4.00 p. m.
Dress parade . . . . .	4.30 p. m.
Supper . . . . .	5.30 p. m.
Officers' recitation . . . . .	7.00-8.30 p. m.
Tattoo . . . . .	8.30 p. m.

(When the company roll will be called.)

Taps . . . . .	9.00 p. m.
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(At which time all lights in quarters of enlisted men will be extinguished.)

By order of

COL. W. F. BARTLETT,  
*Commanding Post.*

B. C. MIFFLIN, *Post Adjutant.*





COLONEL WILLIAM FRANCIS BARTLETT  
of the Forty-Ninth Mass. Vol. Inf.

DECEMBER 10. On guard; second relief. Stood only four hours. Weather very fair. Wind northwest, southwest, west; calm and clear. Morning, cooler; afternoon, warmer.

DECEMBER 11. Marched to the seashore,—some five or six miles. Had dress parade here at four-thirty o'clock. Weather very fair; warmer. Wind southwest; calm and clear. Does not freeze in the evening.

DECEMBER 12. Was on police duty. Went out on dress parade. Weather very fair; clear; warmer. Calm southwest wind. Muddy.

DECEMBER 13. Drilled in manual of arms in both morning and afternoon. Dress parade. Weather very fair; few clouds; warmer. Snow most all gone.

DECEMBER 14. (Sunday). Remained in camp. Had dress parade. Weather very warm; snow all gone. Morning foggy, day fair with few clouds. Calm southeast wind. Did not freeze last night.

DECEMBER 15. On guard again, first relief. The countersign is "Newburn." Morning foggy; day very fair, calm and clear; warmer. Does not freeze. Wind southwest.

DECEMBER 16. Had a pass and went to Colonel Marsh to get it signed. Walked to Jamaica (about four miles), then rode back on cars. Found that Company B and Company K (my company) had gone to New York City to guard a New York regiment because they could not trust their own guards. Weather stormy; rain in morning; afternoon, clouds

broken. Wind southwest, northwest, and blowing hard. Cooler at night.

DECEMBER 17. Remained at camp. Afternoon marched to Centreville Hotel. Was police. Weather very fair; colder. Moderate northwest wind. At night very cold.

DECEMBER 18. Remained at camp. Acted as police. Afternoon drilled in manual of arms. The boys came back towards night. Weather very fair; calm; very cold. Does not thaw in sun. Wind northwest.

DECEMBER 19. Company drill both morning and afternoon. Went on dress parade at night. Weather in morning very fair; in afternoon cloudy. Wind northwest; calm; growing hard towards night. Cold.

DECEMBER 20. Remained in camp. Kept as warm as I could. Weather very fair; clear; no clouds; very cold. Hard northwest wind. Coldest day yet,  $14^{\circ}$  below zero at New York.

DECEMBER 21. (Sunday). Remained in camp. Weather fair. Wind northwest, west, southwest; calm. Little warmer at night, but very cold.

DECEMBER 22. Am on guard, second relief. Countersign "Fredericksburg." Weather cloudy; little warmer, but chilly. Wind southwest; calm. Last night it snowed. One-half inch of snow fell.

DECEMBER 23. Started at eleven o'clock and moved from Union Course to barracks back of Snedeker's Hotel, about three-quarters of a mile away. Weather fair; few clouds and warmer. Wind west; calm.

DECEMBER 24. Roll call at six-thirty A. M. Drill from two to four o'clock P. M., then dress parade. Roll call at eight-thirty P. M. Weather very fair; few clouds; little cooler. Wind northeast; calm.

DECEMBER 25. Roll call at six-thirty A. M. During the morning marched to the Brooklyn Water Works. They pump water one hundred and sixty-five feet high, one thousand fifty gallons at a stroke, making about nine strokes a minute. Afternoon, drill and dress parade. Weather cloudy and warmer. Wind southwest, west; calm.

DECEMBER 26. Morning roll call at six-thirty A. M., then company drill from ten-thirty to twelve o'clock. Battalion drill from two to four P. M., then dress parade at four-thirty P. M. Roll call at half-past eight. Weather cloudy; very warm. Did not freeze last night. Wind southwest; calm.

DECEMBER 27. Morning roll call at six-thirty. Company drill from ten-thirty to twelve A. M. Battalion drill from two to four P. M., then dress parade at four-thirty. Roll call at eight-thirty P. M. Last night rain. Weather today, fair; morning, clear; afternoon, cloudy. Wind southwest, west; calm.

DECEMBER 28. (Sunday). Roll call as usual. At ten-thirty A. M. inspection of arms and knapsacks. Afternoon, dress parade. Weather very fair; little cooler but still warm. Wind northwest; calm. Beautiful evening.

DECEMBER 29. Roll call as usual. Company drill at ten o'clock. Battalion drill at two o'clock, followed

by dress parade. Did my washing today. Weather very fair. Wind northwest, west; calm. At night, a little warmer.

DECEMBER 30. On guard, second relief. Counter-sign "New Orleans." Weather cloudy. Moderate northeast wind. In the evening it rained, then snowed all night,—a moist snow. Hard storm.

DECEMBER 31. Came off guard in morning. Afternoon was mustered on pay roll. Weather stormy. Hard northeast wind. About one and one-half inches of snow have fallen. Freezing at night.

JANUARY 1, 1863. Was on police duty in the morning. In the afternoon we were treated to ale, cakes and apples, furnished by Mrs. Morewood of Pittsfield. Dress parade and roll call as usual. Weather very fair; no clouds; quite cool. Snow two inches deep. Wind northwest; calm.

JANUARY 2. Roll call at six-thirty A. M., then company drill from ten-thirty to twelve o'clock M., and from two to four P. M. Dress parade at four-thirty P. M. Roll call at eight-thirty. Weather very fair; few clouds, and a little warmer. Wind northwest; calm.

JANUARY 3. Roll call as usual morning and night. Company drill from ten-thirty A. M. to noon, then general cleaning up. Dress parade at four-thirty P. M. Weather very fair; no clouds; warmer. Thaws in the shade. Wind northwest, west; calm.

JANUARY 4. (Sunday). In morning inspection of arms, knapsacks, etc. Dress parade at four o'clock



P. M., with roll call as usual. Weather cloudy; a little broken. Morning, foggy; evening, rainy. Wind southwest; calm.

JANUARY 5. Roll call as usual. Had a bath. Company drill from ten-thirty to twelve o'clock (noon). From two to four o'clock P. M. we went on the hill to the cemetery where the soldiers were buried. Dress parade from quarter past four until six o'clock. Weather very fair. Morning cooler, warmer at night. Wind northwest, west; calm.

JANUARY 6. Morning and evening roll call as usual. Did my washing. Company drill from half-past ten A. M. until noon, and from two until four P. M.,—then dress parade at four-thirty. Weather foggy and little warmer. Wind southwest, southeast; calm. Rain in evening.

JANUARY 7. Was detailed for guard at quartermaster's, on third relief. Weather fair, very cold, and grows cold. Morning, few clouds and snow spits; afternoon, clear. Wind northwest; very hard.

JANUARY 8. Came off guard at nine-thirty A. M. Got a pass, went to the hotel here, and warmed up. Got back to camp about four o'clock P. M. Weather cloudy. Morning, very cold, little warmer at night. Wind northwest, west; calm. Last night clear.

JANUARY 9. Was on police duty. Went to Jamaica with the regiment. Ex-Governor King addressed us. Dress parade as usual. Sent home twelve letters and other things. Roll call at the usual hours.

Weather cloudy; broken at night; little warmer. Moderate southeast wind.

JANUARY 10. Company drill from ten-thirty to twelve A. M. Dress parade and roll call at the usual hours. Weather stormy; commenced to rain in afternoon; little warmer. Wind southeast; calm.

JANUARY 11. (Sunday). Roll call at six-thirty A. M. and eight-thirty P. M. Inspection at ten-thirty A. M.; dress parade at four-thirty P. M. Weather very fair. Calm northwest wind. Warm as on the tenth. Hard storm last night.

JANUARY 12. Roll call as usual. In morning went to Jamaica on a pass, returning at four P. M. Dress parade at four-thirty P. M. Weather very fair. Calm west wind. Cooler, but a little warmer at night. Few clouds.

JANUARY 13. Was detailed for guard on first relief No. 12, at the "Mackerels." Went on at nine-thirty A. M. Weather in morning fair; afternoon cloudy. Wind northeast, southeast; calm. Little warmer.

JANUARY 14. Came off guard this forenoon. Got a pass until guard mount tomorrow. Went to see Brooklyn Water Works. The reservoir covers twenty-seven acres. In evening went to hotel. Weather cloudy. Wind southeast; calm. Did not freeze last night.

JANUARY 15. Was police. Company drill from ten-thirty to twelve o'clock A. M. Dress parade.

Roll call as usual. Weather cloudy. Wind southeast; calm. Rained last night. Very hot and muddy.

JANUARY 16. Roll call as usual. Did not drill today, but had dress parade. Weather stormy. Rained hard all of last night and most of today. Wind southeast, southwest, west; calm. Hot, but grows cooler.

JANUARY 17. Roll call as usual, morning and night. Company drill from ten-thirty to twelve o'clock A. M. Dress parade at four-thirty o'clock P. M. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm. Very cold, and grows cold all day.

JANUARY 18. (Sunday). Inspection at ten o'clock A. M. Roll call and dress parade as usual. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm. Clear and very cold. Does not thaw in the sun. William Hogan of Company H, for getting drunk and drawing a weapon on a commissioned officer, was sentenced to chain and log, with hard labor by day and guard house at night, and bread and water for food, for fourteen consecutive days. John Carroll of Company H was sentenced to three days with log and chain, guard house at night, bread and water for food, for being absent without leave. Frank Grove (Gore) of Company G was sentenced to carry a rail on his back in front of headquarters for three days for being absent without leave.

JANUARY 19. Roll call as usual. Company drill in morning, and went to cemetery with company. Went on tower. Grand sight. Afternoon, company drill from two until four o'clock, then dress parade at four-

thirty o'clock. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm, clear, warm.

JANUARY 20. Detailed for guard, second relief, at guard house, to guard the prisoners. Lieutenant of guard (Morey) passed me. Went to dress parade. Weather cloudy. Wind northeast; moderate. Does not thaw. Very chilly.

JANUARY 21. Had a pass until two o'clock P. M. Went to the hotel. Roll call at eight-thirty o'clock. Weather stormy. Rain and snow all day. Chilly. Wind northeast; hard.

JANUARY 22. Am on police. Did not drill. Weather cloudy. Wind southwest; little warmer.

JANUARY 23. Started from Camp Banks about ten o'clock A. M., and marched about ten miles to New York City, arriving about two o'clock P. M. Went on board the steamship Illinois, one of the largest and best of the transports, about sunset. Three companies of the Twenty-first Maine came on with us. Weather: morning, foggy; day, fair. Warm. Wind southwest, west; calm.

JANUARY 24. Remained on board ship. Started at one-thirty o'clock P. M. for New Orleans. Passed Sandy Hook at three-thirty o'clock. Little seasick in evening. Hove up some. Weather, little cooler. clouds broken. Wind northwest; moderate.

JANUARY 25. (Sunday at sea). Was seasick. Hove up twice. Was better at night. Went on upper deck towards night. It looked grand. Sea smooth. Was a little rough last night. Weather: morning,

rainy; afternoon, cloudy but broken; evening clear and beautiful. Wind west; light.

JANUARY 26. Passed Cape Henry at eight-thirty o'clock A. M. About ten-thirty o'clock anchored a little past Fortress Monroe, near where the Monitor and Merrimac had their engagement. Saw a Monitor near by,—a droll looking ship, only a foot or two above water except for the turret. Started from Fortress Monroe at one-thirty P. M. Passed back by Cape Henry, out into the sea. After we started one of the firemen jumped overboard and was drowned. Weather very fair. Wind southwest, west; calm, moderate. Warmer at night; some clouds. *Saw flies.*

JANUARY 27. Sailed with a head wind. We were off Cape Fear about sunset. Was seasick. Weather squally; little rain. Wind southwest; hard; chilly. Waves twelve or fifteen feet high, but sailors say it is smoother than usual. One of the boat's crew was badly hurt by a crank that flew and struck him on the head. His skull was fractured.

JANUARY 28. Sailed with head wind and made only two or three miles an hour. We are in the Gulf Stream. I am some sick, but better. Sea is rough, and waves look grand. Weather squally; rain nearly all day; chilly and cold. Wind west; very hard.

JANUARY 29. I am on guard supernumerary, second relief. Stood on first three times. We passed seven or more cotton bales. Made only ten miles last night. Weather very fair. Wind west by southwest;

hard, but not so hard as yesterday. Sea not so rough as last night. Very rough then. Cooler.

JANUARY 30. Came off guard this morning. Our captain thinks we are off the north coast of Florida this morning. Middle of afternoon, off St. Augustine. Had a glorious sunset. Weather very fair, calm and clear. Wind west, southeast. Sea smooth. Warmer—warmest day; most beautiful night.

JANUARY 31. Morning, in sight of Florida coast. Little before noon we passed the lighthouse on the southernmost mainland. Afternoon, off the reefs. About two o'clock we passed a wreck with twelve hundred soldiers on board. No lives lost. Weather fair. Wind west, south, east, southeast; calm to moderate. Warmer; quite hot; cloudy at night.

FEBRUARY 1. (Sunday). Passed Key West about eight o'clock A. M. About two o'clock P. M. we passed Fort Jackson on the Tortugas Islands in Gulf of Mexico. Had a bath in salt water. Weather very fair. Wind east, west; calm. Thunder heads around. Sea smooth. Hot as June, and grows hotter. Thermometer about  $90^{\circ}$  F. Beautiful evening. Great change in the temperature from New York.

FEBRUARY 2. Sailed in the Gulf a little west of northwest. We have lived rather short. Had rice and potatoes yesterday, and potatoes once before. Not only the food but the water has been short. Weather: morning and evening fair; day showery. Wind northwest, west; calm. Sea smooth. Day moderate; evening cooler, clear and beautiful.

FEBRUARY 3. Sailed west-northwest. The ship tipped sidewise. Arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River about four o'clock P. M. Got stuck in the mud. The water here is very muddy, but in the Gulf it is clear and very blue. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; hard. Sea rough as I ever saw it. The spray dashes over the hurricane deck. The ship rocks and tips so that walking is difficult. Cooler, and grows cold. The man whose skull was fractured on January 27, died about dark tonight.

FEBRUARY 4. Got off the sand bar about 4 o'clock P. M., and tried another pass. Stuck in the sand again about five o'clock. Weather cloudy. Wind east; moderate; very hard in evening. Commenced to rain about five o'clock. It lightnings, and is warmer.

FEBRUARY 5. At midnight last night we backed out of the mud and anchored. Morning, sailed back to the first pass and anchored to wait for a boat from New Orleans to take us off. Weather cloudy. Wind northwest; hard. Very cold and grows cold. Very hard thunder shower last night.

FEBRUARY 6. Morning, we are still anchored. The boat, New Brunswick, came down from New Orleans and took us on board about three o'clock P. M. Started up the river at five o'clock. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm. Clear and very cold,—the coldest that I have seen since we left New York. They say it is the coldest it ever gets here.

FEBRUARY 7. Arrived at New Orleans at seven o'clock A. M. Remained on board of boat. Started

up the river in the afternoon, arriving at Carrollton at four o'clock. The country along the river is beautiful,—nice and level, with orange groves, where ripe oranges hang, and fine mansions surrounded by slave huts. Last night passed Forts Jackson and Phillips. Weather fair. Wind northwest; calm. Still cold, but little warmer.

FEBRUARY 8. (Sunday). Still on the boat. In afternoon the regiment marched out into the country and broke ranks. It seemed good to get our feet on land once more. We marched two or three miles for exercise. Towards night Joseph Caton came on board the boat. He belongs to the Thirty-eighth Massachusetts, and is in camp near by. The country is beautiful. The grass is green, and vegetation looks like June. The country is almost dead level and six or eight feet below the river at high water. The river is kept in by levees, or banks of earth, on either side. Weather very fair. Wind northwest, south; calm. Warm as June. Morning foggy.

FEBRUARY 9. Remained on board the boat during morning. Marched off the boat about two o'clock P. M., and went into camp about a mile away. Had our tents up at sunset. At night, roll call. The water we have now is from the river. It is all right except very muddy. We have enough to eat, such as it is,—beef, pork and hardtack, with coffee. Weather: morning, foggy; day, fair. Wind, calm. Little cooler.

FEBRUARY 10. Am detailed for guard supernumerary. Did not have anything to do. The birds sing



like spring. I saw a garden near us as far along as they are at home on the first of July. Roll call as usual. Weather: morning, foggy; day, fair, with few clouds. Looks like showers. Hot in day time, but damp and chilly at night. Little cooler; changeable weather. Wind east, south, southwest; calm.

FEBRUARY 11. Came off guard this morning. Went to the Mississippi River, took a bath in the river and changed my clothes. The river is not as wide as I supposed. It is only about a mile wide here, and below, one quarter of a mile in some places, but there is a swift current of five or six miles per hour. Afternoon, battalion drill. Went to the landing and got boards for the regiment. Roll call as usual. Weather showery, with little rain; slightly cooler. Wind southwest; gentle.

FEBRUARY 12. On police. Afternoon, company and battalion drill. Washed my clothes. We have to sleep on the ground. Roll call as usual. Weather: morning, foggy, some clouds; afternoon, showery, no thunder, but considerable rain. Muddy. Warmer. Wind southwest.

FEBRUARY 13. Morning, company drill. The captain went with us to the river. Afternoon, battalion drill. Roll call as usual. Turnips, cabbages and other vegetables are growing here. The Thirty-first regiment went up the river yesterday. Birds are singing. Weather cloudy but broken; little cooler. Wind east, southeast; calm.

FEBRUARY 14. Morning, company drill; afternoon, went to the river and washed. Dress parade and roll call. Weather: morning, cloudy; day, broken, showery, little rain; evening, lightning off west. Warmer. Wind northwest.

FEBRUARY 15. (Sunday). Morning roll call as usual. Inspection at ten o'clock. Did not have dress parade. Weather: morning, foggy; day, looks like showers. Warmer. Wind southeast, northwest, northeast; calm. We had a shower that commenced at four-thirty o'clock P. M. It rained very hard until the middle of the night. The land as far as the eye could see was one vast pond of water from four to six inches deep. Was rather disagreeable in the tents.

FEBRUARY 16. Am detailed for guard, second relief. Orders came at four o'clock P. M., for us to be on board the boat New Brunswick at ten o'clock P. M.; but we did not leave camp until past eleven o'clock, with two miles to march to the boat. The guard went on board first, about twelve-thirty o'clock. I was put on guard at the magazine. Stood two hours. Regiment marched on board at one o'clock. Weather cloudy most of the time; little cooler. Wind southeast; calm.

FEBRUARY 17. Started up the river about seven o'clock A. M. Arrived at Fort Butler, Donaldsonville, about sunset. There was a battle here last summer. The country along the river is beautiful. Weather stormy; rained nearly all day, but not hard. Warm as yesterday. Wind calm.

FEBRUARY 18. Went only about thirty miles last night because it was so dark and foggy. Started a little before sunrise and reached Baton Rouge at ten o'clock A. M., one hundred and thirty miles from where we started. Reached campground, about two miles from the landing, about two o'clock P. M., and had our tents up before sunset. We were all glad when we moved from Carrollton as it was a bad place for a camp. The land is five or six feet below the river and level as a house floor, with water anywhere a foot below the surface. Weather: morning, foggy; day, fair, few clouds. Little warmer. Wind, calm.

FEBRUARY 19. Morning and evening roll call as usual. Morning, went on battle field here. Company drill from nine to ten o'clock A. M., and from eleven o'clock to twelve o'clock. Battalion drill from two to four o'clock P. M., then dress parade at five o'clock P. M. Trees are beginning to leaf out. Weather very fair; no clouds; warmer. Wind southwest, west, northwest; calm.

FEBRUARY 20. Roll call as usual. Morning, company drill for two hours. Division drill from two to four o'clock P. M., then dress parade. We are camped on the southwest edge of the battlefield of Baton Rouge. The battle was fought last summer. The rebels attacked with twelve thousand men. Our army had only four thousand men, but with the help of the gunboats the rebels were driven off. The boats fired up through the streets. The trees bear the marks of balls, and bones of horses are thick on the ground.

We are in the first brigade of General Augur's division. Weather very fair; few clouds towards night; little cooler. Wind northeast, southwest; calm.

FEBRUARY 21. Roll call as usual. Morning, company drill two hours. Afternoon, had a bath. Dress parade at five o'clock. Peach trees and blue violets in blossom. Weather: morning, cloudy; afternoon, thunder showers, but not much rain. Warmer, but cooler at night. Wind south, southwest; calm, hard, then calm again.

FEBRUARY 22. (Sunday). Roll call as usual. Inspection at ten o'clock A. M. Then I went to the Fifty-second regiment which is encamped near us. Saw Daniel and Onslow Taylor, Cyrus Tillson, two of the Bryant boys, Charles Kinney, two Bartletts, and William Reed; but did not see George Harlow, as he was off on picket. Dress parade at five o'clock. Had *bread* and *butter* for supper. Weather fair, with a few clouds. Wind northwest; calm. Little cooler, —the coldest it has been since we landed.

FEBRUARY 23. Detailed for picket guard, second relief. On the reserve. Stood on guard twice, two hours at a time, in day and night. Have not seen a stone since I left New York. Weather fair, with few clouds; little warmer; but nights are so cold that we need our overcoats. Wind southwest, southeast; calm.

FEBRUARY 24. Came off picket guard and got to camp about eleven o'clock A. M. Our pickets are posted about a mile from camp. This morning the

rebel bullets came in among the picket guard but no one was hit. Gen. Augur's division, to which we belong, is the first division of the first brigade. We drill five hours a day. Today I went only on battalion drill and dress parade. Roll call as usual. Weather: morning, fair; afternoon, cloudy; and little rain in evening. Wind southeast; calm.

FEBRUARY 25. Morning, company drill for two hours; afternoon, brigade drill for two hours. At five o'clock dress parade. Roll call as usual. Last Friday when we were out on division drill, there were fifteen regiments drilling in the same field, and it was a fine sight. There are about twenty-five or thirty thousand soldiers at Baton Rouge. Weather cloudy, showery in afternoon. Only a little rain. Thunder to the east. Wind southeast, south; moderate in morning; hard in afternoon.

FEBRUARY 26. Morning, no drill. Went with Mr. Parmelee and dug some sweet potatoes. Raised and fixed our tents. Afternoon, battalion drill for a short time and no dress parade. Roll call as usual. Weather cloudy, with little rain in morning. Commenced to rain hard in middle of afternoon, with thunder, and rained until bedtime; warmer. Wind south, southwest, northwest, southwest; calm.

FEBRUARY 27. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, went out on battalion drill to learn how to come out on review and inspection of brigade. Roll call as usual. This afternoon a squad of cavalry drove into camp about forty head of cattle and one horse

that they had captured from the rebels about eight or ten miles from our camp. The pickets captured five or six bales of cotton and several prisoners last night. They are sending prisoners and things into camp most every day. Weather cloudy. Afternoon, commenced to rain a little; evening, commenced to rain hard. Last night hard rain. Little warmer. Wind southeast, south, southwest; calm.

FEBRUARY 28. Roll call as usual. Detailed for camp guard, third relief. Afternoon, review of brigade, and our regiment was mustered for pay. Our regiment occupies the most honored position in the brigade and made the best showing at review. Weather stormy; very hard shower at guard mount. It rained hard all of morning and last night. Wind northwest; calm, but hard last night.

MARCH 1. (Sunday). Came off guard. Fired off gun at a mark. Came a little to one side. Dress parade at five o'clock. Sent a letter home. *Saw some yellow butterflies*. Roll call at eight o'clock. Weather very fair; little cooler. Wind northeast, southeast, southwest; calm.

MARCH 2. On company police. Afternoon, had brigade drill. Had blank cartridges given to us. No dress parade. Roll call as usual. Weather very fair; morning, smoky and frost; day, clear and little warmer. Wind northwest; calm. A splendid day.

MARCH 3. Morning, company drill for two hours. Afternoon, brigade drill for two hours. Dress parade and roll call as usual. Trees are quite green. Weather

very fair; no clouds; cooler. Wind northwest, north; calm. Very nice day.

MARCH 4. Detailed for picket guard. Am on next to the last beat on the left wing, the most dangerous point in our brigade. Had my revolver with me,—the first time I ever carried it. Weather very fair; little cooler. Frost on boards last night. Wind northeast; calm.

MARCH 5. Came off guard. Reached camp at eleven o'clock. Afternoon, battalion drill. Had a sham fight. Fired my gun seven times. Yesterday General Augur reviewed our brigade. Weather very fair; colder. The coldest morning that we have had, with a hard frost. Wind northeast; calm.

MARCH 6. Roll call as usual. Am on company police. Afternoon, had dress parade. Weather stormy; warmer. Rained all day; cleared off at night. Wind southeast; calm; at night southwest; calm.

MARCH 7. Went with the regiment, as a guard to a train of about seventy wagons, back into the country about five miles, after wood for the gun boats. It was very muddy, and marching was hard. We saw only a few rebels. Had dress parade. Weather partially cloudy; warmer; hot. Wind southwest; calm.

MARCH 8. (Sunday). Morning, company inspection. Afternoon, dress parade at which the colonel read divine service. Roll call comes every day, morning and night. Blackberry briars are nearly ready to

blossom. Trees quite green. Weather very fair; few clouds towards night; warmer. Hottest day. Wind southwest; moderate.

MARCH 9. Detailed for picket guard on right wing. Orders came this morning for us to be ready to march at a moment's notice. Must be ready to march by this evening, with three days' rations cooked, although we may not start for some time to come. We expect to go towards Port Hudson. Weather cloudy; little broken; little cooler but warm. Wind northeast; calm.

MARCH 10. Came off picket guard. Reached camp at eleven o'clock. Tents were all struck and we expected to move, but soon had orders to pitch the shelter tents that had been issued to us. The shelter tent holds only two persons. On a march, each man carries half. Some of our troops went out about ten miles and burned two bridges for the rebels. We are still under orders to move at a moment's notice. Had dress parade. We expect to go to Port Hudson and shall probably see a fight. The news in the New Orleans papers tonight is that Vicksburg is taken and the gun boats are coming down the river. A rebel officer brought in news yesterday that the rebels had evacuated Port Hudson. Saw the first blackberry blossoms today. Sweet brier is blown out quite thick, and grass has quite a start. Picked some roses today. Weather showery today and last night. Hot and sultry. Wind southwest; calm.



MARCH 11. Morning, General Banks and staff reviewed our brigade. Our regiment did and looked the best. We had on all of our things, including shelter tents and two days' rations. Afternoon, company drill and dress parade. Weather fair; few clouds; cooler; rain last night. Wind north; calm.

MARCH 12. We are here yet. No drill in morning. Company drill in afternoon. We had a load of soft bread today. Have had nothing but hard bread and pork since marching orders came. General Banks reviewed nine brigades this forenoon, consisting of some fifteen thousand to eighteen thousand men besides the cavalry and artillery. Weather fair; few clouds; warmer. Wind northeast; calm.

MARCH 13. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, battalion and brigade drill. News tonight that we are to move tomorrow. Weather very fair; warmer. Wind southwest; calm.

MARCH 14. Was detailed for picket guard. We were up at three o'clock in the morning and started for Port Hudson at five o'clock, with three days' rations, knapsacks, guns, and all of our accoutrements. We marched some ten or twelve miles and went into camp about noon. Our brigade was the last to start. I went on picket at night. Was on the reserve, and went around with the officer inspecting the picket guards. Being on picket, I could hear when the firing commenced, which was about eleven o'clock at night. They kept it up for five or six hours. Weather very fair; warmer. Wind, calm. Very hot marching.

MARCH 15. (Sunday). Little after midnight we saw a bright light which appeared to be drifting down the river. At three o'clock A. M., all of the regiments and baggage trains were ordered to start back as soon as possible. Our regiment was the second one to march. We had formed in line and started when there was a bright flash followed by a tremendous report. Our general (Acting-brigadier Chapin) ordered us to march back as fast as we could. This was because the officers feared that the rebels were driving our gun boats and would shell us from the river. We went the first five miles on the double quick, until news came that our fleet was all right and we need not fear the rebel shells. It was hot, dusty, and hard marching. There was not a dry thread on any of us. The sweat ran down and stood in my shoes. At the command "Halt! Break ranks!" the boys threw themselves flat on the ground. We rested a long time, and then marched slowly back to Baton Rouge as a guard to a wagon train. The flash and report at the time we started were caused by the blowing up of the gun boat Mississippi. This was done by our own men to prevent her falling into the hands of the rebels. From Baton Rouge we march back about half way to the place where we camped last night, and camped near Bayou Montecino. Weather warmer; morning, fair; afternoon, showery; evening, had a hard thunder shower. Wind calm.

MARCH 16. Remained in camp. The boys of the Forty-ninth, and others, drew lots of sugar and other

supplies. (We confiscated them.) Dress parade. Weather warmer; morning, little rain; day, very fair. Wind west; calm. Hard thunder shower last night.

MARCH 17. We had orders to march at five o'clock A. M., but did not go. Dress parade at night. A line of battle was formed near us, and the lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-eighth regiment was wounded and taken prisoner. Weather fair; warm as summer. Wind southeast; calm.

MARCH 18. We are still here. Morning, went to the Fourth Wisconsin. Had dress parade. Roll call as usual. The news tonight is that we are going soon. The lieutenant-colonel was not wounded nor made prisoner as reported. Weather fair; warmer; very hot and sultry. Wind southeast; calm.

MARCH 19. Still here. Afternoon, had skirmish drill and dress parade. Roll call as usual. Trees are looking very green. Weather warmer; very hot; morning, cloudy; day, fair. Wind south, southeast; calm.

MARCH 20. Morning roll call. Started for our old camp a little before noon. Went on the camp ground of the Forty-eighth. I was detailed for picket guard but was not wanted. Weather fair, but some clouds; very hot. Wind calm.

MARCH 21. I am detailed for picket guard. Went northeast from camp, on the reserve. Afternoon, went with some other boys on a scout, about two and one-half miles from camp. Came to where the rebels had

wounded some of our cavalry pickets. We had no guns and had to run for it. Weather fair; some clouds; hot as yesterday. Thunder showers all around us. Wind southeast; calm.

MARCH 22. Came off guard. Reached camp about noon. We killed two yearling steers. Had some fresh meat, and carried some to camp. Dress parade. A message from General Banks says that our gun boats have passed Port Hudson, gone up the Red River, and cut off the supplies from the rebels. Some of our men have torn up the railroads and burned bridges, and are left to guard them. There are about fifty thousand rebels in the fortifications at Port Hudson, where they are strongly entrenched. The plan, I believe, is to starve them out. Weather, cooler; morning, some clouds; afternoon, showery, with thunder and considerable rain. Wind southeast; calm.

MARCH 23. Roll call. Morning, on police; afternoon, dress parade. Company G has gone to Baton Rouge as provost guard. Webster, of my company, died a few days ago. When we were on our march we should have fared hard if we had not pitched in and taken everything that came in our way,—cattle, sheep, hogs, mules, horses, sugar and molasses. From one sugar house we took tons. I hear that when we shelled the rebels we killed over three hundred of them. About seventy of our men killed. The Windsor boys are all well except N. B. Stetson and Eugene Pierce. Apple trees in blossom. Peaches as large as your

finger. It is as warm as June. Thunder showers all day and last night; hard rain; cooler.

MARCH 24. Detailed for picket guard on our right wing. The news is that we are to go on provost duty around here, or on garrison duty at Washington. Our major was arrested for letting in teams against orders. He did not know them. Weather partially cloudy; little cooler. Wind northwest; moderate. Thunder showers with hard rain last night. Thunder all the time since Sunday.

MARCH 25. Came off guard. Went on brigade drill and dress parade. Roll call. Our captain was arrested for giving wrong orders. Weather very fair; no clouds; little warmer. Wind northwest; calm. Very cold last night. Frost on boards this morning.

MARCH 26. On company police. Battalion drill and dress parade in afternoon. Had a headache so that I was not at roll call. Corn, on the average, is knee high. Weather fair and warmer; considerable many clouds. Wind south; calm.

MARCH 27. In morning went and got some boards from an old camp. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. The colonel drilled us about an hour, then we had roll call. Weather warmer; morning, fair with few clouds; afternoon, looks showery; little rain. Wind southwest; calm.

MARCH 28. Detailed for camp guard supernumerary. After one hour, I had to stand in Shaw's place on third relief. Weather warmer, very hot,—

hottest day yet. Morning, fair; afternoon, some clouds; evening, thunder showers with continued lightning. Wind southwest; calm.

MARCH 29. (Sunday). Came off guard. Dress parade. The colonel read divine service. Roll call. Last night the guard tent fell on us. Weather fair. Wind north; hard. Few drops of rain and grows cold. The coldest I have seen. Last night hard thunder showers. Lightning all of the time and great deal of rain fell.

MARCH 30. On company police. Morning, prepared for the general's inspection. Inspection at twelve-thirty o'clock P. M. Dress parade and roll call. Heard that Eugene Pierce was dead. He died the twenty-second of March. Weather cloudy; very cold. Wind north; calm. Coldest day yet. We need our overcoats and mittens. Evening very beautiful with no clouds.

MARCH 31. Detailed for camp guard supernumery, on third relief. Did not have to stand. The Windsor boys are all well except three: Oscar Bicknell, who is a little unwell; Eugene Pierce, who has been in the hospital at New Orleans, and whom I heard yesterday was dead; and N. B. Stetson, who is not expected to live until morning. Weather very fair; little warmer. Wind west; calm. Evening most beautiful.

APRIL 1. Came off guard. Did not have to stand. Morning, had a pass and went to the city. Stopped at the camp of the Thirty-eighth Massachusetts and

saw Joseph Caton. He is going off. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Grover's division has gone. Emory's division is going today. N. B. Stetson died in the general hospital this evening at six-thirty o'clock. We are expecting pay soon. Weather very fair, little warmer, no clouds. Wind west, southwest; calm.

APRIL 2. Detailed for picket guard. Swapped off with Brown so as to go to a funeral. Morning, was on company and camp police. Afternoon, went to N. B. Stetson's funeral. Was pall bearer. Weather very fair; little warmer; quite hot. Wind west; calm.

APRIL 3. Brown was detailed for camp guard. I took his place, swapped with Chapin, and went on picket guard. Was at the first house, on reserve. News today is that two of our cavalymen are wounded. Weather very fair; no clouds; little warmer. Wind northwest, west; calm. At night, little hazy.

APRIL 4. Came off guard. Of the two cavalymen reported wounded yesterday, one was killed and the other wounded. Our brigade had orders to move nearer the city today. We moved towards night. Had to carry our tents, boards, etc. Weather fair; no clouds; warmer; hot. Wind east, south, southwest; calm.

APRIL 5. (Sunday). On company police. Morning, went to old camp. Had to pitch tents over again. Afternoon, dress parade at which the colonel read di-

vine service. Roll call as usual. Batchelor buttons are blossomed thick. Weather very fair, warmer. Wind northwest; calm. Days hot and nights cool.

APRIL 6. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Roll call as usual. Weather very fair, little warmer. Wind northwest; calm. At night a few clouds.

APRIL 7. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Roll call as usual. News today is that the rebels are a little this side of the pontoon bridge at Bayou Montecino. Weather very fair, little warmer. Wind southeast, northwest; calm.

APRIL 8. Detailed for camp guard. Came near being orderly, but was picked out for guard at the colonel's tent, first relief. Our regiment went on fatigue duty. Came back at noon. Weather very fair; little warmer; hot. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 9. Came off guard. Nothing to do except to go on dress parade and roll call. The regiment went on target-shooting, distance two hundred and eight yards. Weather very fair. Wind southeast, south; calm. Grows warm fast. Very hot,—the hottest day as yet.

APRIL 10. I am on company police. Morning, company drill. Afternoon, company drill from three-thirty until five o'clock. No dress parade, but roll call as usual. Weather: morning, few clouds; afternoon, cloudy, little broken. The clouds make it a little cooler. Wind southwest; calm.



APRIL 11. Morning, dug rifle pits about two hours. Afternoon, went to the river and washed. Roll call as usual. Weather fair with a few clouds, hotter. Wind southwest; calm. Hottest day yet.

APRIL 12. (Sunday). Detailed for camp guard, second relief, number eight at barn. Weather showery; foggy in the morning and rain several times during the day, but not much. Rain came from the northwest. Hotter. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 13. Came off guard. Afternoon, dug rifle pits about two hours. No dress parade, but roll call as usual. Weather fair with a few clouds. Clouded up at night. Wind southwest; calm. Hotter.

APRIL 14. Morning, on company police and finished our part of the rifle pits. Afternoon, battalion drill, dress parade and roll call. Weather fair, few clouds. Thunder showers last night. Cooler, and grows cool. Wind west, northwest; moderate.

APRIL 15. Morning, target shooting. Afternoon, battalion drill and dress parade. Roll call as usual. Weather very fair; hot. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 16. Detailed for guard supernumerary. Weather very fair and very hot. Scalding sun. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 17. Came off guard. The regiment went on fatigue duty. I had a pass and went to see the fortifications. Afternoon, on camp police and had dress parade. Our orderly (Orderly Gleason) was appointed second lieutenant by the colonel. Charles

Bartholomew died several days ago. Weather very fair. Wind southwest; calm. Hottest day.

APRIL 18. Morning, went out target shooting. Made the best shot. Afternoon, went to the river and washed. Roll call as usual. Weather very fair with few clouds; hotter. Wind southwest; calm. Ate first early blackberry.

APRIL 19. (Sunday). Detailed for picket guard. Was an outer reserve on the Highland road. The officers expected an attack last night and we lay on our arms. Morning and last night, hard thunder showers. Very hard rain at guard mount. Afternoon, fair; clouds broken. Wind northwest; calm.

APRIL 20. Came off guard. Our company, with companies A and D, went on a foraging expedition on the Highland road. Got back a little after sunset. Went about ten miles, and brought in sixty barrels of molasses and ten barrels, five hogsheads of sugar. Company F stayed with us last night. Weather very fair and very hot. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 21. Morning, battalion drill in manual of arms. Afternoon, brigade drill and no dress parade. Weather fair and clear in morning. Afternoon, some clouds and looks like showers. Wind southwest; calm. Very hot. Hottest day. Cooler at night.

APRIL 22. On camp police. The regiment went target shooting. Did not have any drill in the afternoon. Dress parade. Signed the pay rolls and expect pay tomorrow. Weather fair; very hot. Wind southwest; calm.

APRIL 23. No drill today. In the afternoon they commenced to pay our regiment. Paid four or five companies; then the money gave out, and they had to go to New Orleans for more. Weather fair with very few clouds, except in morning. Wind southwest; calm. It is the hottest day there has been since we have been here.

APRIL 24. Detailed for picket guard. Was on first reserve. Weather very fair and warmer. Wind southwest; calm. Yesterday the thermometer registered  $110^{\circ}$  in the shade at headquarters.

APRIL 25. Came off guard. Afternoon, went bathing in the Mississippi river, and then had dress parade. We are ordered by General Chapin to drill four hours a day. Weather very fair. Wind southwest; hard during the night; calm in daytime. Very hot—hot as the 24th.

APRIL 26. (Sunday). On camp police. Drew white gloves. Did not go on inspection. Had dress parade at six o'clock P. M. Weather fair, few clouds. Wind east, southwest; a gentle breeze. Warm as yesterday. It looks like showers and lightnings.

APRIL 27. Morning, company drill for two hours. Afternoon, battalion drill two hours. No dress parade. Weather fair with few clouds, but cloudy in morning. Wind southwest, northwest, southwest; a gentle breeze. Very hot. Small shower with but little rain.

APRIL 28. Detailed for camp guard. Swapped and went on picket guard, on old reserve on Perkin's

road, second relief. Morning, went to sugar house. Splendid place. Weather cloudy in morning, very fair during the day. Little cooler, but hot. Wind northwest, southwest; calm. Little rain last night.

APRIL 29. Came off guard. Fixing up for review and inspection. Dress parade. Weather very fair, cooler, but hot. Wind northeast, northwest, west; calm. Very little rain last night.

APRIL 30. Morning, prepared for inspection. Afternoon, inspection and mustering in for pay. Dress parade. Weather fair, cloudy but broken; at night clear; little warmer. Wind west, southwest; calm.

MAY 1. Detailed for camp guard, second relief, number eight at the colonel's tent. The regiment had dress parade. Weather very fair and very hot. Wind northwest; calm.

MAY 2. Came off guard. Afternoon, went to the river and had a bath. Dress parade. I sent home forty-five dollars today. About two thousand of Grant's cavalry came in this afternoon from Vicksburg. They brought in rebel prisoners, together with a lot of horses, mules and negroes, besides paroling above seven hundred prisoners. On their way they burned Camp Moore and all the bridges. Weather cloudy; broken in afternoon; clear in evening. Wind east, south, west; calm. Warm as yesterday. Last night was very beautiful.

MAY 3. (Sunday). Morning, went to church. Saw the rebel prisoners (about seventy in number), that the cavalry (sixth and seventh Illinois Cavalry)

brought in last night. Afternoon, the regiment formed a square and had preaching by a man from New York. Saw corn nearly eight feet high. Weather fair, warmer, but cloudy part of the time. Wind northeast; calm.

MAY 4. Detailed for picket guard, on first reserve, on Perkin's road. Lieutenant Gleason was officer of the guard. We had a few ripe plums. Weather very fair, clear, and very hot. Wind southwest; calm.

MAY 5. Came off guard. Towards night the regiment marched down to the city. I did not go. The regiment drills only two hours in the morning and one-half hour before dress parade in afternoon. This is company drill. Weather: Morning, cloudy, little rain; afternoon, fair, few clouds. Wind northwest; gentle breeze. As warm as yesterday.

MAY 6. On camp police, and went on dress parade. Weather fair. Wind northwest; hard and cold. Few clouds and great deal cooler.

MAY 7. Morning, company drill a little while. Orders came for us after this to have dress parade at eight o'clock A. M., and company drill from four-thirty to six-thirty P. M., and battalion drill at night. Weather fair, with a few clouds. Wind northwest; moderate. Cool as yesterday. Very cold last night.

MAY 8. Detailed for picket guard. Went on post right south of camp. The guns went up yesterday and, commencing at about one-thirty P. M., fired for several hours. Weather very fair, little warmer. Wind northeast, north, northwest; gentle breeze.

MAY 9. Came off guard. Afternoon, went to the Mississippi river and had a bath. They are bombarding Port Hudson. Commenced Thursday. The rebels have not replied yet. We gave them a hard one today. Weather very fair and warmer. Wind northwest, west; calm. Last night calm, clear and cold.

MAY 10. (Sunday). On camp police. Very hard cannonading last night at Port Hudson. Weather very fair and very hot. Wind south; calm.

MAY 11. Dress parade at eight-thirty o'clock A. M. Battalion drill from four-thirty to six-thirty o'clock P. M. Roll call as usual. Dudley's brigade is going to Port Hudson. A negro regiment has gone to the pontoon bridge. Weather very fair, calm, clear, very hot. Wind east, southeast.

MAY 12. Detailed for picket guard on reserve, on Greenville Springs road with Captain Weller. First, went on wrong line. The Illinois Cavalry passed by towards Port Hudson. Splendid cavalry. Weather very fair, hotter, very hot. Wind southeast, south, southeast; calm. Few clouds towards night.

MAY 13. Came off guard. As soon as I got to camp had orders to pack up and be ready to march, with two days' rations, sixty rounds of cartridges, rubber blanket and overcoat. Started at noon. It was very dusty marching. Marched about fourteen and one-half miles. Got to where we stopped for the night about dark. We are four and one-half miles from Port Hudson the nearest way. Weather fair.

Wind south, southwest; calm. Morning clear; afternoon cloudy; very hot.

MAY 14. Started back little before noon. Rode most of the way back. Last night we lay on the ground without any shelter. They drove the rebel pickets last night and took two hundred stands of arms. They were skirmishing around us this morning. News through rebel sources is that General Hooker has taken Fredericksburg and killed, wounded and taken eighteen thousand rebels of Jackson's army, and shot off Jackson's arm. They are bombarding Port Hudson every night. Weather stormy. Wind southwest; calm. Rained last night and today. Got wet last night. Very hot.

MAY 15. Morning, dress parade. Afternoon, company drill. Was on company police. We had the first blackberries today. Weather fair generally, and hot as yesterday. Morning, few clouds; afternoon, looks like showers, little rain. Wind southwest, south; calm.

MAY 16. Detailed for picket guard with Captain Lingenfelter, on reserve, on Greenville Springs road. Three hundred rebel prisoners came down the river last night. The Illinois Cavalry brought in seventeen prisoners today and sixty bales of confiscated cotton came in. Weather very fair, hot. Wind south, southeast, northeast; calm. Few clouds towards night.

MAY 17. (Sunday). Came off guard. First . . .  
[Note: The day's record stops abruptly at this point.

No reason is given.] Weather cloudy but broken, little cooler. Wind northeast, east, southeast; calm.

MAY 18. Detailed for picket guard with Captain Weston at outpost on Greenville Springs road. Two cavalry deserters came in from Port Hudson today. They say there are not over ten thousand men in Port Hudson. A planter came in today with eight bales of cotton. Brought seven bales when I was on guard before, and is coming again tomorrow. He sells it for two hundred and fifty dollars a bale. The Forty-eighth regiment went towards Port Hudson. Weather very fair. Wind northeast, north, northeast; moderate. Hot, but little cooler at night.

MAY 19. Came off guard. In the evening we got orders to march tomorrow morning at five o'clock with two days' rations. The whole brigade is going. Weather very fair, little warmer. Wind southeast; calm. Last night quite cool.

MAY 20. Started at five o'clock A. M. for Port Hudson, with two days' rations, sixty rounds of cartridges, both blankets, and shelter tent. Arrived near where we were before at twelve-thirty o'clock P. M. We had a hard, hot and dusty march. I pitched my tent and washed up. Am feeling well. Weather very fair; warmer; very hot. Wind southeast; calm.

MAY 21. Started at seven o'clock A. M. for Port Hudson. Battle of Plain's Store began about nine o'clock A. M., with heavy firing. Company A was ordered out as skirmishers at ten-thirty o'clock. At two o'clock P. M. the battle commenced on our part of



the field with artillery and infantry firing. Little after two o'clock we were ordered forward. We were under fire about one hour, and, during the time, charged across a field swept by artillery and small arms. How the shells and bullets did fly! Hennessey was wounded. The rebels were driven back. Weather warmer; Morning clear; afternoon cloudy.

MAY 22. We are drawn up in line behind a battery this morning. Towards night march back to where we camped last night and pitch our tents. Weather very hot. Morning, fair; afternoon, clouded up; towards night, moderate rain. Wind southeast; gentle breeze.

MAY 23. Detailed for picket guard after dinner, with Captain Shannon. Went out towards Port Hudson. Weather very hot and fair, with some clouds. Afternoon, looks showery. Wind southwest, west; gentle breeze. A hard shower at night.

MAY 24. The troops have orders to march. I got to where we stopped a little after two o'clock P. M. They commenced firing about noon. About two o'clock the firing was very fast. We moved a little nearer, and shall sleep by our guns tonight. The firing stopped at night. Weather warmer; very hot and fair. Afternoon, some clouds. Wind was a gentle breeze.

MAY 25. Towards night yesterday we went into the woods and stayed there until evening. Then we marched out into a road and formed an ambuscade, as we expected an attack from the rebels, who want

to get out, and have at several times. There was but little firing. I am unwell. Weather very fair and very hot. Wind moderate.

MAY 26. We stayed in the woods. But little cannonading. I am unwell. Weather fair; few clouds; very hot. Wind moderate.

MAY 27. Cannonading commenced soon after sunrise. We were ordered to charge Port Hudson, which we did; but were repulsed after an awful battle, in which the Forty-ninth was cut to pieces, losing over one-third of those that went into action. I am sick, and was obliged to fall out, so was not in all of it. Weather very fair; hotter. Wind moderate.

MAY 28. After the battle yesterday we came to the woods where we were before. Stayed there in morning. In afternoon Captain Weston sent me to wait on the wounded. There is a little cannonading. I am not as well. Weather very fair; very hot. Wind moderate.

MAY 29. Stayed at the field hospital last night. Went to my company during the day. Considerable cannonading today. The rebels tried to get out last night but were driven back. We are building breast-works and mounting siege guns. I am sick. Weather fair. Wind calm. Very hard thunder shower towards night.

MAY 30. Company K went back about three-quarters of a mile on guard. Our company (K) lost nearly one-half in the charge of the twenty-seventh, five killed and eight wounded. But little firing today.

We hear that there are fifteen thousand reinforcements coming for the rebels. I am still sick. Weather very fair; very hot. Wind calm.

MAY 31. (Sunday). Remained on guard in the same place. Good deal of firing last night. But little today until towards night, then heavy firing. Still sick—cannot eat. Weather fair; some clouds; hotter; sultry and oppressive. The hottest day so far. Wind calm.

JUNE 1. Came off guard. Went back to our regiment. I am still sick. It was as much as I could do to get back. They are firing heavy guns occasionally all day. Weather fair, with few clouds. Wind calm. Morning was cloudy and foggy. Hot as yesterday.

JUNE 2. I am still sick and not able to do anything. Some heavy firing during the day. We keep getting more guns and men. At night the regiment moved into the road to protect the battery. I did not go. Weather very fair and very hot. Gentle breeze.

JUNE 3. Remained in the woods at the same place. I am feeling better so that I can eat a little. Some heavy firing today. Our men hauled up several heavy mortars. Weather very fair; warmer. Wind calm.

JUNE 4. Detailed for picket guard, on the reserve, with Captain Weston. Went towards Port Hudson. We had men detailed from our regiment last night to build breastworks. I am better, but not strong. Weather very fair; hotter. Wind southwest; calm.

JUNE 5. Came off guard. I am feeling well but a little weak. Some heavy firing. The regiment sup-

ported the battery last night. Weather very fair with a few light clouds. Wind southwest; calm. Hotter—the hottest day I ever saw.

JUNE 6. Detailed for picket guard on outpost, within a short distance of the rebel works. We lay in the road to support the battery last night. Little heavy firing. Sharpshooters are popping at us all the time. Weather very fair and hotter. Wind northwest; calm. Awful hot.

JUNE 7. (Sunday). Came off guard. Detailed for skirmisher at night. Weather very fair and warmer. Wind southwest; calm. Hottest day—keeps growing hot.

JUNE 8. Came off safe, but the bullets flew thick this morning. Large guns fired considerable last night. The regiment went to the road last night and moved down to where the pickets are to shovel. I have a headache. Weather very fair. Wind southwest; calm. Hottest day.

JUNE 9. Remained in camp in the woods. Last night went down back of the battery to shovel. More heavy firing night and day. We have orders to go out somewhere tonight. I am having a hard headache. Weather very fair, except morning cloudy. Wind southwest; calm. As hot as usual.

JUNE 10. We did not move last night. Was detailed for camp guard. Great deal of heavy firing last night and today. Our batteries are nearly all placed. The attack will commence soon. Weather fair, few clouds. Wind south; gentle breeze. Hot as ever.

JUNE 11. Our batteries dismounted two rebel guns. We went into the rifle pits at the battery on the Port Hudson road last night, and are still in the pits. Last night and today there is a great deal of heavy and rifle firing, and the balls come thick. Weather showery, with thunder and hard rain. Wind west; calm. At night, clear and little cooler.

JUNE 12. Companies K and I, with some of the one hundred and sixteenth New York, were detailed for guard on a fortification nearer to the rebels. They worked all of the afternoon on the fortification. The balls flew very thick. Weather very fair. Wind east, north; calm. Cool as yesterday, but very hot.

JUNE 13. We went forward into the rifle pits at the new battery before light. Our battery opened about noon. Afternoon, the rebels raised a white flag, and the flags of truce met. We moved back to the other rifle pits in the evening. Weather very fair, clear and hotter. Wind north, northeast; calm. Awful hot in the pits.

JUNE 14. (Sunday). I went after water for the company a little after midnight. Our regiment and the rest of the brigade moved up near the rebel works about two-thirty o'clock A. M., and commenced to fire as fast as we could. Our battery fired over us, fast. We lay behind stumps, trees and anything we could find. We had a pretty hard battle. The bullets flew thick. We lay nearly all day in the hot sun. It was awful hot, but we could not go back without getting the bullets after us from rebel sharpshooters.

When I did go back, I went upon the jump and zigzag, with the bullets zipping all around. While I lay behind a beech stump I had a duel with a rebel. We exchanged four or five shots apiece. I think I must have hit him, as I fired last and never could see him afterwards. It was only a few rods off and he was a good shot. Weather very fair. Wind north, northwest; calm. Hotter.

JUNE 15. Remained in the rifle pits at heavy battery all day, then went to the left into rifle pits at second battery. Detailed for picket guard tonight in vidette pits. We had one killed and seventeen wounded in the regiment yesterday. Weather very fair. Wind north, northwest; calm. Hotter.

JUNE 16. Remained in the rifle pits at the battery on the left of the Port Hudson road. The bullets are flying thick all the time, and our artillery are firing occasionally. The rifle pits are wet and muddy, making it bad for us to be in them. There is a rumor that we are to storm the works again. Weather: morning, fair; afternoon, heavy thunder showers with good deal of rain.

JUNE 17. We are still here in the rifle pits, but wet and muddy. Stay here all day. The rebels sent in a flag of truce. Good deal of firing in the morning; none during the day. Detailed for guard, as sergeant, in front of battery in vidette pits, with orders to go out after dark and come in when daylight appeared in the east. Weather: morning, cloudy; day, some

clouds; afternoon, little rain. Wind northeast; calm. Hot. Last night hard thunder shower.

JUNE 18. Came off guard and remained in the pits today. Some firing, though not so much. They fire night and day from gun boats and batteries, making splendid fire-works in the night. We are mining the rebel fortifications on the right. Weather: morning, cloudy; day, fair. Wind north, northwest; calm. Warmer; very hot. Showers around us last night.

JUNE 19. Remained here in the rifle pits today. Firing as usual. Washed my shirt. Had a cucumber. Weather very fair; hotter. Wind southwest, northwest; calm. Very hot.

JUNE 20. We are here in the pits today. But little firing. They are moving guns to the left of our lines. We stand guard, one hour apiece, night and day. Weather fair. Wind northwest, southwest; calm. Morning, clear; afternoon, some clouds; evening, cleared off. Hotter.

JUNE 21. (Sunday). We expected to be attacked last night, but were not. Yesterday, we took five hundred cavalry, but lost a train of seventy wagons. We are still here in the rifle pits. The stormers were ordered to report at headquarters this morning. A man near us was shot through his head today. Weather hot and sultry. Morning, cloudy; afternoon, rainy. Wind northwest, southeast, northwest; calm.

JUNE 22. Remained in the rifle pits at the same place. A great deal of firing, especially by sharpshooters. We had to lie low, and dodge the bullets

when we saw the puffs of smoke. Weather a little cooler, but hot. Last night and morning, rainy; afternoon, few clouds. Wind northeast, southeast; gentle breeze.

JUNE 23. Detailed for picket guard. Went on the reserve, below Acting General Paine's headquarters, during the day. Orderly Sergeant Wolcott, of Company H was shot this morning and died about the middle of the afternoon. At night, I went on a post on the left of our regiment. Weather hot; morning, little rain; then fair, with few clouds, until about three o'clock; then rainy, with thunder. Wind southeast; calm.

JUNE 24. Came off guard. Washed shirt and stockings and had a bath. We do not keep watch by day, but only through the night. Weather fair and hotter. Wind southeast, southwest; gentle breeze.

JUNE 25. We are here in the rifle pits yet. I am detailed for guard in front of battery. We are within thirty yards of the rebel works and the report is that we are to charge the works tomorrow. Weather fair and warmer. Some clouds and a very little rain, but showers around. Wind southwest; calm.

JUNE 26. Came off guard. We are in the rifle pits yet. Three of our boys came up from Baton Rouge: Stephen Brocha, John M. Roys and Gilbert Hollister,—all from Company K. The orders are to open fire at two o'clock P. M. Only the gun boats opened at the appointed time. But little firing besides. We are expecting an attack from the rebels



tonight. The rumor is that they will try to cut their way out. Weather showery, but sun shines more than half of time. Moderate rain. Wind southwest; calm.

JUNE 27. We were not attacked last night. We were kept up nearly all night, expecting the attack. Am in the ditch yet. The gun boats fired fast all night on the left. Detailed for guard tomorrow. Weather fair, with some clouds, and hotter. Wind southwest; calm. Hottest day as yet.

JUNE 28. (Sunday). Went on guard. Was taken for skirmisher on the right of the Port Hudson road in front of heavy battery. Left the skirmish line about —, and went to the cook's for rations. Towards night heavy firing. Weather very fair, hot as yesterday. Wind southwest; gentle breeze.

JUNE 29. Came off skirmish line about nine o'clock last night, and went to the cook's for my supper. Then went on guard in vidette pits on right of heavy battery. Came off guard about ten o'clock A. M., and went to the cook's after rations. The rebels are deserting fast every day. They say that they have only one meal a day. Today they had one-quarter of a pound of meat which was the last meat they had. They have plenty of corn, but no way to grind it. No wonder they desert. Weather very fair and very hot. Wind southwest; calm.

JUNE 30. We are still in the pits. Had to wear our equipments as we were expecting an attack last night. There was a great deal of heavy and musket firing on the left, where we are giving them fits.

Prisoners are coming in fast. We were mustered in for pay today. Weather very fair and hotter. Wind southwest; calm.

JULY 1. We are here in the rifle pits yet. We were expecting an attack last night, but they did not come. We are up nearly all night now, watching, and have to wear our equipments all of the time. They are firing as usual. The news is that General Banks made a speech to the stormers last night and said that we should have Port Hudson by the Fourth of July. Weather very fair; few clouds, and very hot. Wind northwest, southwest; calm. It looks like showers.

JULY 2. Last night the Twenty-first Maine came to where we were, and we went to the left of our battery. This morning we came to our old place and stayed all day. Yesterday the rebels attacked Springfield Landing with fifteen hundred cavalry; burned the quartermaster's stores, and raised the "Old Harry" generally. Weather very fair and very hot. Morning, clear; afternoon, some clouds; looks like showers. Wind southwest; calm. "Hot" is no name for the heat.

JULY 3. Detailed for guard last night, on road at right front of battery. Moved back into the woods this morning, and stayed all day. The rebel cavalry that attacked Springfield Landing have been taken. There were about four hundred of them, instead of fifteen hundred. Weather fair and hot. Wind variable; calm. Afternoon, cloudy.

JULY 4. Last evening moved to where we were the night before. This morning we came back to our old pits and stayed all day. We chose Second Lieutenant Judd to be first lieutenant, and Orderly S. B. Gleason to be second lieutenant. The deserters say that General Gardner tells his men that, after today, they can do as they please; but I do not believe it. Weather hotter; morning, foggy; few clouds; afternoon, several showers, and good deal of rain.

JULY 5. Last night we moved down to cotton house. This morning went back into the woods where we were before. Stayed all day, but expect to go to the rifle pits this evening. We have to remain up nearly all night and I am nearly beat out. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm. Little cooler, but sun is very hot.

JULY 6. Last night we stayed where we did the night before. This morning went back to rifle pits and stayed all day. Evening, detailed for camp guard. Weather very fair. Wind northwest; calm and clear. Hotter. Sun awful hot.

JULY 7. Last evening our regiment moved to brigade headquarters. Was detailed for camp guard. The regiment is building a road between Illinois and Holcomb's batteries. I worked. On the morning of the Fourth of July, Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant, together with twenty-seven thousand prisoners, one hundred and twenty pieces of field artillery, eighty siege guns and sixty thousand stands of arms. Weath-

er very fair and hotter. Wind southwest; calm. Last night a thunder shower.

JULY 8. We remained last night on the right, back of the rifle pits, and stayed in the same place today. Working parties are called in. Flags of truce met to arrange the terms of surrender. About the middle of the afternoon Port Hudson was surrendered. We shall probably stay where we are tonight. This morning I went to the rebel fortifications and talked with the rebels. Swapped canteens and hard bread for sugar and molasses. They are glad to get the bread. They have lived short for the last two weeks, having nothing to eat but mule meat, corn cake, and pea soup. Weather very fair. Wind southwest; calm. Hotter. Sun scalds. Afternoon, thunder showers, little rain.

JULY 9. Last night we stayed at ten gun battery. Guns are all gone. About the middle of morning we marched into Port Hudson and through to the river. General Gardner surrendered the place to General Andrew, General Banks' chief of staff. The whole number of prisoners was six thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, including eight colonels and twenty-eight other field officers, with all their munitions of war. Port Hudson is on a high bluff, some eighty or ninety feet above the river; but I cannot tell much about it as we went on board of transports at six o'clock P. M., and started down the river. There were eight transports loaded with troops. Weather

fair; hotter. Wind southwest; calm. Clouded up in afternoon.

JULY 10. We arrived at Donaldsonville in the morning and went on shore about the middle of the forenoon. About noon we marched up the river about three miles after rebels, but did not find any. I was detailed for picket guard. Was on reserve as usual. Had tomatoes for the first time July seventh. They were ripe before. Weather fair; some clouds; little rain in afternoon. Wind calm. Hotter. Very hot. Sweat badly.

JULY 11. Remained on guard until six o'clock P. M. A lot of forage is being brought in,—chickens, and almost everything. I have had tomatoes, figs, hoe-cake, milk, and fresh meat. The foragers, when they come in, always treat the guard so as not to be reported. Dudley has taken two hundred prisoners. Weather cloudy; little broken. Wind southwest; gentle breeze. Little cooler.

JULY 12. (Sunday). The Forty-ninth Massachusetts and the Second Louisiana regiment went up the river about two miles on a foraging expedition. The boys cleaned things out good. They loaded a boat with the forage and got back to camp about sunset. Weather cloudy more than half of the time. Wind southwest; calm. Showery. Some rain. *Hot*.

JULY 13. Our brigade started early and marched down Bayou La Fourche about four miles where we stopped until after dinner, when we were attacked by the rebels. About one o'clock we formed a line of bat-

tle, with the Forty-ninth regiment on the right of the line, and were ordered forward into the fight. The bullets flew thick. We were nearly flanked, as the enemy was on three sides of us before we were ordered to fall back. The Forty-ninth was the last regiment to leave, and we had to retreat through a corn and cane field nearly all the way for four miles. The corn was about ten feet high, with the bullets cutting the cornstalks all around us. We had to run as fast as we could to get away from the rebels. It was a hard retreat, as it was one of the hottest and sultriest of days. I was nearly played out when we got back. Thomas Carey is supposed to be killed, and a good many of our regiment were bayoneted. Only ten of Company K and five of Company B have come in as yet. Weather mostly cloudy, calm, and hotter.

JULY 14. Remained where we were last night, about half a mile from where we were before. I was tired and hot and had a hard time of it last night, waking up wet as a rat in a hard thunder shower. We had two showers, and it rained as if it knew how. I caught cold by getting wet. The regiment lost one killed, five wounded, and sixteen missing, in yesterday's battle. Weather cloudy, hot, and sultry. Wind southwest; calm. Thunder at night. Hard thunder showers last night.

JULY 15. We are in the same place. News,—read to the regiment today,—is that General Mead has completely routed General Lee at Gettysburg, taken twenty-eight thousand prisoners, and sent Lee's army in full

flight for the Potomac. Good news reports Brashear City taken and General Johnston driven back. The rebels are being whipped in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Fifteen thousand men are coming to reinforce us. Weather hotter; morning, cloudy; noon, hazy; afternoon, cloudy; showers; little rain. Last night showers, with considerable rain.

JULY 16. Detailed for picket guard. Was on post in the woods,—a very good place. Morning, had a bath and washed my clothes. Our brigade is to move back about a quarter of a mile today. Weather fair, with some clouds. Wind southwest; calm. Hot as the fifteenth. It is melting hot.

JULY 17. Came off guard. The regiment has moved back a quarter of a mile. I do not feel very well. Weather very hot. No cooler. Morning foggy, day fair.

JULY 18. Stayed where we were. We now have roll call and inspection at night. Washed my shirt and had a bath. I am not feeling well. Went to the doctor. Weather cloudy more than half of the time. Afternoon, little rain. Wind variable; calm.

JULY 19. (Sunday). Went to the doctor. I am sick and feel weak. We are still here. Weather fair. Wind variable, but calm towards night. Showers around. Little rain here. Cooled it a little, but it is still very hot.

JULY 20. Remained in the same place. Morning, went to the doctor; afternoon, went to the river and washed. Weather fair. Wind northeast, south, south-

west; calm. Towards night hard thunder showers. Good deal of rain. A little cooler, but still very hot.

JULY 21. Remained in the same place. Morning, went to see the doctor, and he excused me from duty because I was sick. Afternoon, went to the river, washed, and looked around. Weather fair. Wind calm. Some clouds. Looks like showers. Hot and sultry.

JULY 22. Remained in the same place. I am not as well. Went to see the doctor. Was excused from duty. Weakness is pretty much all that ails me. Weather very hot and sultry. Last evening, hard thunder showers with good deal of rain. Morning, cloudy; afternoon, few clouds. Wind southeast, southwest; calm.

JULY 23. Remained in the same place. I am a little better, but weak. Went to the doctor. Was excused from duty. Weather little cooler, but very hot. Morning, showery; afternoon, showers. Considerable rain today. Wind southwest; calm. Only a little sunshine today.

JULY 24. Remained in the same place. In the morning went to the river and had a bath. The convalescent boys came down this morning,—nine of them to Company K. Seth Bartlett was one of them. Weather very hot. Morning, cloudy; day, some clouds; afternoon, showers. Wind west, southwest; calm. Hard wind during the rain.

JULY 25. Remained in the same place. Washed clothes and had a bath. I am feeling a little better.



Weather fair, few clouds. Wind southwest. A good breeze, but hot.

JULY 26. (Sunday). Remained in old camp. Not well yet. Weather fair. Morning, sprinkles of rain; afternoon, some clouds, no rain. Wind south, southwest; moderate. Hotter. Very hot and sultry. It looks like showers at night.

JULY 27. Remained in camp. I was quite sick last night, but am little better this morning. Went to see the doctor. Weather cloudy; little broken. Wind southwest, west, northwest; gentle breeze. Hot as yesterday. Last night it rained.

JULY 28. Remained in same camp. Am feeling a little better, but went to the doctor. Afternoon, went to the river. Our time is out. Weather fair; some clouds. Wind southwest, southeast, southwest; gentle breeze. Hotter. Very hot. Afternoon, showers. Good deal of rain.

JULY 29. Remained in same place. I am a little better. Went to the doctor. Am excused from fatigue duty. We are under marching orders to go home as soon as things are ready, and have been for several days. Weather cloudy, broken. Afternoon, hard thunder showers with lots of rain. Wind southeast, southwest; calm. Hotter. As hot as we have had.

JULY 30. Remained in same camp. I am feeling better. Weather fair. Wind southeast, south; calm. Morning, foggy; day, few clouds. Very hot. As hot as yesterday.

JULY 31. We are in the same place. I am feeling

better. We are expecting to move this evening. Weather hot as yesterday. Morning, foggy; day, some clouds; afternoon, showery; some rain. Wind south, southeast; calm, but hard during the showers.

AUGUST 1. Went on board of the boat at six o'clock A. M., started at nine o'clock; arrived at Baton Rouge at six o'clock P. M., and reached our old camp ground at seven o'clock. Glad to get back after a campaign of seventy-three days. We have seen more of real war than some regiments that have been in service for years. Weather hotter. Morning, foggy and cleared away; afternoon, cloudy. Wind, calm.

AUGUST 2. (Sunday). We are on our old camp ground at Baton Rouge today. We have dress parade now. I feel a good deal better. Weather fair; few clouds. Wind southeast; calm. Showers around. As hot as yesterday.

AUGUST 3. Remained in old camp. Had orders to clean and brighten the guns. We have dress parade and roll call as usual. Weather fair. Wind southeast, northeast; moderate. Afternoon, looks like showers; little rain.

AUGUST 4. Remained in old camp. Dress parade and roll call as usual. Weather fair; few clouds. Wind southeast; gentle breeze. Afternoon, showers in the distance.

AUGUST 5. Remained in the old camp. Turned guns and equipments over, and packed our things, as we expect to go tomorrow. I am not as well,

and feel weak. I have diarrhœa. Went to see the doctor. Weather in morning, partially cloudy; afternoon, cloudy. Wind southeast, southwest; moderate. Hot.

AUGUST 6. We expected to go today, but stayed in the old camp. I am not as well. Went to the doctor. Weather in morning, fair with few clouds; afternoon, hard thunder shower with good deal of rain. Wind southwest, northwest; moderate. Little cooler.

AUGUST 7. We went to the river expecting to go, but remained there all day, waiting. I am sick. Had my knapsack carried to the river. Walked down, but it was hard work. Weather in morning, fair; afternoon, showers; considerable rain. Hotter.

AUGUST 8. Last night stayed on board of the boat Natchez. About four o'clock P. M., started down the river on the boat Raymond. I am still sick. Hardly able to get around. Weather cloudy; broken. Wind southwest; calm. Very hot.

AUGUST 9. (Sunday). Arrived at New Orleans about five o'clock A. M. Went on board of the boat Tempest and started up the river for home a little before three o'clock P. M. I am feeling a little better. Weather fair; some clouds. Wind southwest; calm. Hotter.

AUGUST 10. Arrived at Baton Rouge at seven o'clock this morning. Stopped and took on ten days' rations, and started again at ten o'clock A. M. Reached Port Hudson little after one o'clock P. M. A man

of Company E jumped overboard last night, and was lost. Weather fair; few clouds. Wind calm. Hotter. Awful hot.

AUGUST 11. We passed Natchez about four o'clock this morning, and Rodney about eleven o'clock A. M. Arrived at Vicksburg a little after eight o'clock P. M., and stopped to coal up. I am a little better. Weather very fair. Wind calm. Hotter. Awful hot.

AUGUST 12. Started from Vicksburg about ten o'clock A. M. The Forty-eighth regiment arrived here a little before we started, and started up the river when we did. A man of Company I fell down and hurt his arm the other night. I am feeling better. Weather very fair. Wind south, southwest; gentle breeze. Hot as yesterday.

AUGUST 13. We passed the Arkansas river about the middle of the afternoon, and Napoleon a little before dark. Daniel Owen of company I died to day, and was buried in the afternoon on the Arkansas shore. Weather very fair. Wind; gentle breeze. Showers around. Very little cooler.

AUGUST 14. Stopped about half of last night. The Forty-eighth regiment passed us. We reached Helena, Arkansas, about two-thirty o'clock P. M., where we overtook the Forty-eighth. Levi Proutt, of company I, died about one o'clock last night, and Egbert Smith died this forenoon. We stopped and buried them in the afternoon. Weather very fair. Wind a gentle breeze. Little cooler. Some clouds towards night.

AUGUST 15. Arrived at Memphis, Tenn., about sunrise. Nice place. Started about eleven o'clock A. M., after taking on coal. We met a good many boats today. The country looks better, and I feel a good deal better. Weather fair, with some clouds in the morning. Wind calm, moderate towards night. Little warmer.

AUGUST 16. (Sunday). Reached Island Number Ten about three o'clock P. M. Stayed a little while and then started for Cairo which is about sixty miles from here. The country is better settled, and looks better and greener. I am feeling better. Weather fair, with few clouds. Wind a gentle breeze. Warm as yesterday. Towards night it looks like showers. Only a little rain.

AUGUST 17. Arrived at Cairo about one o'clock A. M. Came off of the boat this morning and went to the depot where we stayed all day, waiting for transportation. *I am once more in a free land.* Weather very fair. Wind calm. Hotter.

AUGUST 18. Remained at depot all night. Started for home by train about two o'clock P. M. Arrived at Carpendale about seven o'clock P. M. It is quite a thriving village. The country here in southern Illinois is nearly all woodland. Weather very fair. Wind calm. Hot as yesterday, but cooler on the road.

AUGUST 19. Arrived at Mattoon about half-past six o'clock A. M. It is on the prairie, out of the woods, nearly two hundred miles from Cairo. We changed cars and started again about a quarter past eight

o'clock A. M. Passed through Paris and arrived at Terre Haute, seventy-two miles from Indianapolis, about one o'clock P. M. I am sick yet, but better. I ride with the sick. Weather very fair. Wind calm. Little cooler. Nights quite cool.

AUGUST 20. Reached Indianapolis last evening. Changed cars and started from there in a short time,—about ten or eleven o'clock P. M. Arrived at Winchester a little before sunrise. Started from there about six o'clock A. M. Changed engines at State Line. Stopped at Sidney and Bellefontaine at ten o'clock A. M. Arrived at G———— at one-thirty o'clock P. M., and left there at two-thirty o'clock. Arrived at Cleveland little after sunset, where we were well treated to all good things to eat,—which was very acceptable to hungry men. Weather very fair. Wind calm. Little cooler, but hot yet.

AUGUST 21. Started from Cleveland, after changing cars. (Stayed some two or three hours.) Reached Buffalo this morning, and left about eight-fifteen o'clock A. M.,—arriving at Rochester at noon, and at Syracuse at five o'clock P. M. Changed engines, and reached Utica about dark. We were well treated there. Arrived at Albany about one-thirty o'clock the next morning. Weather a great deal cooler. Morning, cloudy; afternoon, broken. Wind calm. It is the first cool day that I have seen this summer.

AUGUST 22. After riding all the way from Cairo to Albany on freight and cattle cars, we started from Albany in passenger cars at about seven o'clock A. M.,

arriving at Pittsfield about ten o'clock A. M. We had a grand reception here. The regiment was escorted through the streets to the Park where we had a speech from the Hon. James D. Colt, after which we were invited to partake of refreshments furnished by the ladies. I rode home with Elijah Jordan, starting from Pittsfield at four o'clock P. M., and reaching home a little after seven o'clock P. M. Weather fair, with some clouds. Wind calm. Shower of rain. Cool as yesterday. Folks here call it very hot, but I think it is cool.





## LETTERS

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*[The following are copies of letters written by R. W. Torrey to members of his family. Only a few letters will be given. Others have been incorporated in the body of the diary, to supplement the more or less scanty records of the diary itself.]*

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*[Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey (father of the writer).]*

CAMP BANKS, JAMAICA, N. Y.,

Dec. 26th, 1862, in the evening.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

I received your letter of the 23rd this morning. It found me in good health and tough as an owl. Last Tuesday we moved about one mile, and went into barracks back of Snedeker's Hotel. The colonel drills us in the afternoon now, at his headquarters, or at the hotel. He understands things first rate. He is a better officer than any of the captains, and more accommodating. He has seen service before, as a captain, and has lost his left leg; but he has a wooden one to replace it. The weather last week Tuesday was rainy in the forenoon, but not hard; afternoon,

cloudy, but no snow. It grew colder until Saturday night. Saturday I called the coldest day that I have seen this winter, but we kept warm. Since that it has grown warmer. It did not freeze last night. Today is it very warm, and cloudy. We have but little wind here. There have been but few windy days since I have been here, and then not very hard. Mother wanted to know if my stockings were worn out. They are all whole except the poorest pair, which has a few holes. I shall have plenty of stockings to last through. As to washings, I get along very well. I do not want you to worry about me, as I am getting along well and it has got so it seems like home. I have not been one particle homesick since I have been in camp. Tell Watson to write, as I have not received any answer to the letter I sent to him. Direct as before.

Yours, etc.,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. Sidney M. Torrey (brother of the writer).*]

CAMP BANKS, L. I.

Dec. 7th, 1862. P. M.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

You no doubt wish to hear from me. I am well and in good spirits. We started from New York last Thursday about ten-thirty o'clock, and arrived at Camp Banks a little before sunset, after a march of about sixteen miles. We are encamped in tents,—

the same kind they had at Pittsfield. There are five of us in our tent, all Windsor boys,—Seth Bartlett, Oscar A. Bicknell, Lyman Hathaway, I. H. Johnson and myself,—which makes the tent full. Last Friday it rained some, but our tent did not leak. During Friday night it snowed about two inches, and it remains here yet. Today is very cold, with a high wind, but we keep quite comfortable. We have a fire in our cook house where we can warm our feet when they are cold. There are several regiments camped around us. One of them is the Fifty-third Massachusetts. Yesterday the Fifty-third cleaned out the quartermaster's and sutler's and tore down their building. Some of our regiment were with them. I have not received a letter since I left Camp Wool. I wish you would write and let me know all of the news, and send some pills so I can have them when I want them. The captain told me this morning that we should not remain here long if he could help it. If we do remain here long I shall come home if possible. Today is very cold; but I am sitting in my tent, writing, with but one coat on; and I am warm enough, so you need not think that I shall freeze. The tents are quite warm. We have plenty of bed clothes.

This from a loving brother,

R. W. TORREY.

P. S.—You will find enclosed Oscar Bicknell's ambrotype. Our company is the best off of any in the regiment. It is all owing to our orderly. He looks out for the company. We have just been and

stolen some boards to build us a larger cook house. We have full permission from the colonel to take boards where we can find them, and the regiment (boys) take pretty large liberties. Be sure and write, and tell Thomas, Watson, and others, to write.

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

CAMP BANKS, UNION COURSE, JAMAICA, L. I.,

Dec. 17th, 1862.

DEAR PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTER:—

I received your letter of the 4th last Thursday or Friday, and yours of the 11th this week Monday; and they found me enjoying good health. We are still here; and shall probably remain two weeks or more, as we are to be the body-guard of General Andrews, who is commander of the remaining part of General Banks' expedition. We have a good deal of guarding. We have provost guard over all New York and Brooklyn, and picket guard on the island. With the guard around our camp and the guard to guard government property, it takes so many men with the few that are discharged and sick that we can muster only about four hundred on dress parade. I had a pass yesterday and went to the village of Jamaica, which is about four miles from Union Course where we are encamped. When I came back I found that our company and Company B had gone to New York to guard a New York regiment, as they could not trust their own guards because they would

run away; so I am having an easy time. There are ten of our company left. We have nothing to do but chop wood and keep fires. Yesterday it rained in the forenoon; today it is a little cooler. Wind northwest. For four or five days before it has been very warm, with the wind southwest,—so warm that the ground did not freeze in the night. The snow has been off ever since the middle of last week. We have had mud enough, but it is getting dried up. We did not have a very good place in New York, but I like here very well. Perhaps you think we do not sleep warm in our tents, but it is not so. The tents are warmer than anyone would suppose. I believe you said something about the temptation of camp. You need not worry yourselves on that account, as anyone can have the company that he likes. Those that tent with me are very good boys, especially Oscar Bicknell. There are a great many likely men in the regiment. If you would pick out a few hard ones, the regiment would be made up of good steady men. About that ambrotype! I think it must have lost out of the letter on the way home. I shall send home in this letter a song about the Massachusetts regiments. There was one soldier of the regiment that was shot by a secession landlord in East New York, I believe; but there is no use in going to such places. You have to run the guard to do it. You will not catch me to such places. We live well here. I have been weighed this evening and weigh one hundred and forty-nine pounds, so you see that I have gained. I have just received a letter

from Aunt Ruth. I do not think of anything more to write, so I will stop.

This from an absent son and brother,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. Sidney M. Torrey.*]

CAMP BANKS, JAMAICA, N. Y.,

Jan. 4, 1863.

DEAR BROTHER:—

I received yours and father's letter this evening, and was glad to hear that you are all well. I am well, (except a slight cold now), and have been since you were at Worcester. Father wanted me to write about those he was acquainted with. Henry Packard is not very tough. I think he is homesick. J. L. White went to New York day before yesterday as provost guard. He is well. Eugene Pierce and A. Francis are well, except slight colds. Seth Bartlett has been nearly sick with a cold, but is better. Oscar Bicknell has been sick with the mumps, but is well now. The rest of the Windsor boys are well, except colds. Colds and mumps are about the only things the regiment is afflicted with. Tell mother not to worry about me, as I fare well. We fare the same as we did at Worcester; and as for the cold, I have not suffered any more than I should at home to work. I now weigh some one hundred fifty-two or fifty-three pounds. Lieutenant Taft told me today that we should go the last of this week, or the fore part of next week, but there is nothing sure. \* \* \*

R. W. TORREY.

[*Letter to Miss Sarah A. Torrey, sister of the writer.*]

CAMP BANKS, JAMAICA, L. I.

Jan. 14th, 1863, in the afternoon.

DEAR SISTER:—

I received yours and father's letter last Monday. It found me in good health. We have not left yet, and I do not know when we shall. The report last week was that we were going this week, and this week they say that we are going next week; so I do not know when we are to go. Probably we shall not leave for several weeks yet. Tell Sidney \* \* \* \*. I was on guard yesterday and last night. I had a pass today and went to see the Brooklyn water works where they throw water by a steam pump onto a hill, so that it will run into the city. They throw one thousand and fifty gallons per stroke and make nine strokes a minute. The reservoir covers twenty-seven acres. The cost of the whole work was five million dollars. Almon Pierce has been here, and I sent home my old diary, twelve of my letters, \* \* \* \*, and also some sassafras root. I intended to have sent a line with the things; but we were ordered off on a march to Jamaica the day he started home, so I could not. Mr. Pierce was to leave the things at Jordanville. The weather has been nice and warm,—almost too warm, as it makes it very muddy. The day you spoke of as being below zero was somewhat cold here, but not nearly as cold as that. Last night and today it has

been cloudy with the wind southeast until this afternoon, when it was southwest, and warm. It did not freeze last night. I received a letter from Watson Phillips last Sunday, stating that they are all well. Eugene Pierce received a letter the other day with the news that Aunt was married. I do not think of anything more to write now. This from

Your ever true and loving brother,

R. W. TORREY.

P. S.—Write soon.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

ON BOARD SHIP, OFF FORTRESS MONROE,

Jan. 26th, 1863, 10.30 A. M.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

We have just anchored at the Fortress. We have had a pleasant time coming so far, but I have been sea-sick some,—not very bad. I am well now as a horse, but I felt bad for about twenty-four hours. The weather is pleasant this morning, and warm and mild as May. The waves (yesterday) rocked the vessel enough so that it made a lot of us sick. This morning the water is still with scarcely any swell. Yesterday the waves rose some eight or ten feet. We are anchored on the place where the Merrimac and Monitor had their engagement. There is a monitor not more than a quarter of a mile from us. It is the drollest looking craft I ever saw. It is not more than one or two



feet above water, except the turret. I do not think of anything more to write now,—only that nearly all of the Windsor boys have been sea-sick, but not very bad. We are all in good spirits. I must close, and try to get a chance to send this if I can. \* \* \* This from

An absent son and brother,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

CARROLLTON, LOUISIANA,

Feb. 9th, 1863.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

Probably you are anxious to hear from me. We arrived here day before yesterday, but have not landed yet. Expect to go into camp today. We are about four or five miles above New Orleans. \* \* \* \* We started from Fortress Monroe on Monday, January 26th, at one-thirty o'clock P. M., and had very good passage except that we had head winds most of the time. On North and South Carolina and Georgia coasts it was rather rough, so that the ship was tossed about too much for comfort. The waves rose some twenty or thirty feet. You can have but little conception of how they look until you see them. We passed Key West February first, in the morning. We reached the most southern of the reefs in the afternoon of the same day, so that we passed into the Gulf before night. On the east coast of Florida, near the southern

part, we passed the wreck of a sailing vessel. It was loaded with soldiers when it was wrecked, but they were all saved. We had a beautiful passage in the Gulf until the last day, when the wind blew hard and the waves rolled the most I have seen them. They struck us sidewise, and the boat was tipped so that it was difficult to walk about. We reached the mouth of the Mississippi River about four o'clock P. M., on February 3rd, and attempted to go up the southwest pass (which is the largest). Got stuck on a sand bar and had to remain there until they could get news to New Orleans so as to have a boat come down to take us off. We had to remain there three days. A boat came at last, and we started up the river about five o'clock on February 6th, reaching New Orleans the next morning at seven o'clock. We remained anchored until the afternoon, when we sailed to this place. The regiment went on shore yesterday and marched two or three miles for exercise. It seemed good to get on land once more. We had been on water sixteen days. The weather here is about like our June. The orange trees are green, but the oranges are mostly picked. Although the weather is like June, the things are not so far advanced. The grass is green but short. It looks as though it had but just started. The roads are dry and dusty as summer, but I cannot tell you much about the country as I have not seen it yet. It is level and considerably below the river, which is kept in by embankments. It (the river) is not so wide as I supposed it was. It is

only about a mile wide here; and below, in some places, it is not over one-fourth of a mile wide; but there is a current of five or six miles an hour. Since we have been on ship board we have not fared as well as before. We have had enough to eat and drink,—such as hard bread, beef, and pork, with rice and potatoes once in a while. We have very good coffee, but the water is bad. We have Mississippi water to drink now, which is the best there is to be had. For a sample of the water take the river at our mill after a hard shower when it is the muddiest, only it is a good deal cleaner than this. But, bad as this water is, it tastes good and it is nearly as cold as our well water. When we get ashore we shall fare better. We shall have soft bread and other things that we cannot have on board ship. Last night I saw Joseph Caton. I did not know that he was here until he came on board our ship. He belongs to the Thirty-eighth regiment, which is encamped only a short distance from here.

February 10th.

We are now in camp. We started off the boat at two o'clock yesterday afternoon and came to our camp ground, which is about a mile from the boat, and got our tents pitched about sunset. The weather is quite hot in the daytime, but the nights are damp and chilly. This morning, near where we are, I saw a garden as far along as they are at home by the first of July. The weather is as hot as we have it any time in the summer and the sun scorches. The clouds look like showers since the fog cleared away about

eleven o'clock. It is not so warm all of the time. The weather is very changeable here. \* \* \* \* I do not know how long we shall remain here; but write just the same, as the letters will follow the regiment. I received a letter from Charles Leonard this morning. He was well and at Washington, N. C., when he wrote. \* \* \* \* I want you all to write as often as possible. I do not know whether I shall be able to write as often as I have done unless we remain here. This from

A son and brother,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Miss Sarah A. Torrey.*]

CAMP BANKS, BATON ROUGE, LA.,

March 31, 1863.

DEAR SISTER AND FRIENDS:—

I now take the opportunity to write you, as I have a little leisure time, being on guard as a supernumerary. I have not been called on yet, and I do not think I shall be. I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear that you were all well. I also had one from Davis Clark. He says \* \* \* \* I wish that some of you would tell Oscar to write and I will try to answer it; but I do not have a great deal of time to myself, as we are on guard every three days, and the rest of the time we are drilling and on police duty. I hear that wages are very high at the north. \* \* \*

Things are very high here. Flour is twenty dollars per barrel; eggs seventy-five cents per dozen; cows, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars apiece. The country is almost drained of its inhabitants. There is scarcely an able-bodied man left. They are all in the rebel army. \* \* \* \* On the 26th corn, on the average, was good knee high. Everything here is looking as green as summer. Last Saturday was the warmest day we have had as yet. It was as hot, and the sun scalded as badly as on any day we have at the north. We had a hard thunder shower at night, which cooled the weather, so that Sunday and Monday were quite cold and chilly, with wind north. You must have cold weather north. To-day it is warmer. \* \* \* \* The Windsor boys are all well except N. B. Stetson, who is not expected to live; Oscar Bicknell, and Eugene Pierce, who has been in a hospital at New Orleans. News came yesterday that he was dead, and I think it is true. \* \* \* We are the first brigade of General Augur's Division of the nineteenth army corps. Enclosed you will find some leaves and flowers. This from

An absent brother,

R. W. TORREY.

P. S.—I hear that the colonel says that we shall be on our road home by the third of June.

[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

CAMP BANKS, BATON ROUGE,

April 30, 1863.

DEAR FATHER AND FRIENDS:—

I am well and hearty. The climate appears to agree with me better than it does with a great many. There are a good many sick in the regiment. We have lost three in our company since we came south. The Windsor boys are all well except Fairfield, who is in the hospital quite sick; and Albert Thompson, Addison Stearns, Henry Wentworth, and Mr. Johnson, who are a little unwell. I do not get much news now only that we hear that there has been some fighting at Burwick's Bay; but with what result I have not heard. They are fortifying this place fast, keeping about two thousand men at work, mostly negroes. (There are several negro regiments here, and they are raising more fast.) When they get it fortified it will take but few men to hold it to what it does now. I had a letter from Hamlin Ford last Thursday stating that he and all of the Windsor boys were well, except Newton Whitman. He thought that Newton had the phthisic and would soon be sent home. I will give you the prices of some things here: Flour, twenty dollars per barrel; cheese, forty cents per pound; butter, fifty cents per pound; sugar averages about twenty cents per pound; dry codfish, fifteen cents per pound; potatoes, thirty dollars per bushel; and so on, in proportion. \* \* \* \*

May 1st, afternoon.

We had inspection and mustering in for pay yesterday afternoon, but no review, and were paid. We Windsor boys talk of putting our money together and sending it home by express. \* \* \* \* The news now is that one of General Banks' aides heard Banks say that we should be home on time, so you may look for me to get home anywhere from the twentieth of June to the fore part of July. \* \* \* \* If you want to see flies and mosquitoes you ought to be here. The air seems to be full of them. \* \* \*

A distant son and brother,

R. W. TORREY.

P. S.—I am well and tough yet.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

BATON ROUGE, May 3rd, 1863.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

Perhaps you will be surprised to receive another letter so soon. We Windsor boys have sent our money together in one bundle, but each one in a separate parcel. It is sent by Adams Express to John Francis. The express is paid here. We sent yesterday. \* \* \* \* The Sixth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry arrived here yesterday about night from LAGRANGE, Tenn., (they belong to Grant's army), with about seventy rebel prisoners, and horses, mules and negroes in abundance. They have done the greatest thing that has been done since the war commenced. They have been sixteen days coming, and have been

in the saddle most of the time night and day. They have destroyed miles and miles of railroad, burned thirty bridges, took and paroled over one thousand rebels, burned Camp Moore (the largest rebel camp there is around here), and took a lot of cannon shells and other rebel property which they destroyed,—besides taking money, watches and other things they could pocket. They have lived on the country as they came; and, when any of their horses gave out, they took the first one they could find. They have almost an entirely new set of horses and they are a good lot. The cavalry had to cut their way through. They had eight fights coming, and lost two or three men killed, five badly wounded, and some more slightly wounded. Yesterday they rode eighty miles, had two fights, and took the prisoners they brought in. (The prisoners are a detachment of Stuart's cavalry.) To-day I went to meeting for the first time in four or five months and I saw the prisoners. They were dressed in all manner of shapes. Nearly all belong here. They sent them to New Orleans. \* \* \* \*

Yours in haste,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

REAR OF PORT HUDSON, June 23, 1863.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

You are probably expecting a letter from me before this but, since we came up here, I have not had much time; and, if I had, it would have done no



good to write as they have stopped all letters from going north. I think this will not go until after the fall of Port Hudson, which I think will be before long. We started for Port Hudson the twentieth of May. The next day we had a nine hours' fight on Port Hudson plains. Our company had one man missing. The rebels were driven back with a heavy loss as compared with ours. I cannot go into the detail of all that has transpired since I have been here. Our regiment has been in three fights,—one of them a charge on the rebel fortifications. The regiment has been badly cut up. Our colonel and lieutenant-colonel were wounded, but not dangerously. Our company (K) lost more, according to the number engaged, than any other company, but I escaped without a scratch. Since we came here I have been unwell about a week with the jaundice, but I have fully recovered and am enjoying as good health as usual. \* \* \* \* I think we shall start for home soon after the fall of Port Hudson. They will keep us here until that falls to do garrison and picket duty, but they cannot call us into action.

June 25th.

I am still well and hearty. We are in rifle pits, protecting the Twenty-first New York and the Fifth United States regular batteries, and have been for the past fortnight. Deserters are coming from the rebels every day. They say that there is only about fifteen days' rations in Port Hudson. Henry Wentworth was killed in the charge on the rebel works. A. Francis

was wounded, though not badly, and was doing well the last that I heard. Quite a number of the Windsor boys are unwell, although, the last I heard, there were none dangerously sick. Albert Thompson and Oscar Bicknell are sick. J. L. White, Seth Bartlett and Fairfield have nearly recovered their health. They have not been with us up here. \* \* \* \* The weather is very hot, the hottest I ever saw. \* \* \* \* Write soon and tell others to write. This from your son and brother.

In haste,

R. W. TORREY.

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[*Letter to Mr. H. P. Torrey.*]

DONALDSONVILLE, July 30th, 1863.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

I received your letter, mailed July 6th, on the 20th, and one yesterday, mailed the 13th, and was glad to hear that you were all well. I am enjoying middling health now. I have had dysentery since I came down here, brought on by a change in water. (We have only river water, which is very poor at this season of the year.) I am cured of it and am well, only somewhat weak, but am gaining strength fast. \* \* \* \* We expect to go to Baton Rouge soon, where we shall remain until they get ready to send us home. \* \* \* There is some talk of sending us up the river. I am in hopes that they will, although it will take fully as long. \* \* \* \* The rebels are getting whipped

most everywhere, especially down here; although, by the papers, they are getting badly whipped on the Potomac. I am afraid that mother is worrying herself about me, but she need not, as I shall come back all right, and then, woe to the pies, cakes, sauce, pickles, berries, eggs, etc. \* \* \* \* Mr. White is getting pretty smart. The rest of the Windsor boys as far as I know, are all about and kicking. \* \* \* This from a distant son and brother.

In haste,

R. W. TORREY.

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BATON ROUGE, Aug. 2nd, 1863.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

We are in our old camp at Baton Rouge. Arrived last night at about seven o'clock. We do not expect to remain here more than two or three days before we start for home. We shall go up the river, by way of the west, home. I cannot tell you when we shall be in Pittsfield, but they are going to give the Forty-ninth a grand reception when they get there; so, if you will be there then, I think I shall be ready to go with you. I am well now. The rest of the Windsor boys are well. We shall not get home before about the twentieth.

Yours in haste,

R. W. TORREY.





